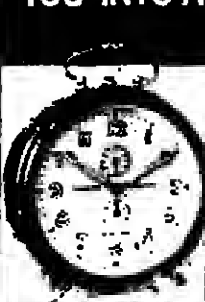


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ARAB TIMES

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Complaint lodged with UN against Iranian attack

Kuwait reserves right to retaliate

UNITED NATIONS, April 1, (Agencies): Kuwait in a complaint to the UN has accused Iran of attacking its island of Bubiyan in the northern Gulf and reserved the right to retaliate against any aggression.

In a letter to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Kuwaiti representative Mohammad Abulhasan said three Iranian gunboats earlier in the day opened fire with machineguns and rocket propelled grenades against military posts on Bubiyan island, wounding two Kuwaiti military personnel.

Patrolling troops returned fire at the boats, forcing them to retreat, the ambassador said.

Tense

"This violation of Kuwait's security and sovereignty will increase the already tense situation in the area, and shall lead to adverse consequences for the stability and security of the region," Abulhasan said.

"Kuwait reserves the right to retaliate against any aggression on its territories or sovereignty," he added.

Perez de Cuellar said yesterday he was firmly of the view that the hostilities in the Iraq-Iran war should not be extended and that the territorial integrity of third countries in the area should not be violated.

He was responding to the letter



A bunker hit by Iranian gunfire

addressed to him by Abulhasan. Iran has denied the attack. Abulhasan said he had urged the Security Council members, especially the five permanent ones, to take all the necessary measures to guarantee that this was not repeated.

Abulhasan said the council members showed total understanding and expressed their

determination to support the integrity and stability of Kuwait. Kuwait has denied Iranian accusations that it allows Iraqi forces to use Bubiyan, a few miles from the southern war theatre.

Kuwait's Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed, yesterday visited Bubiyan island and reaffirmed the country's readiness to repulse aggression.

"The instructions [to the armed forces] are quite clear in dealing with any unknown target in defence of our land and people," Sheikh Nawaf told personnel manning the site.

Sheikh Nawaf listened to a report by the commander of the garrison on the island.

He vowed "we will not be lenient toward anyone who tries to



Sheikh Nawaf talking to one of the injured soldiers.

undermine our sovereignty or attack our military or civilian positions."

Sheikh Nawaf, who was accompanied by the Army commander, praised the reaction of the garrison in dealing with the Iranian boats and said: "We will stand together in protecting our beloved country against any foreign aggression."

Sheikh Nawaf, who visited the two victims of the Iranian aggression at Al-Addan hospital accompanied by the Chief of General Staff, Major General Mezeid Abdul-Rahman Al Sanei, said that the condition of the wounded calls for no alarm.

Prevent

The injured said their wounds are medals of honour on their chests for defending Kuwait and vowed to make the same sacrifice for the country as soon as they recover, the minister quoted the injured as saying.

Kuwait hopes diplomacy will

prevent further clashes with Iran.

Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sahah Al Ahmed indicated Kuwait wanted to defuse tension.

"I hope this attack is not repeated, especially now that we are attempting to build good relations with Iran," he told reporters on Wednesday.

Only last week, Sheikh Sahah described relations with Iran as good and said Kuwait would resume diplomatic representation in Tehran as soon as Iran and Iraq stopped bombarding each other's cities.

Kuwait came close to breaking relations with Tehran last year when Iran fired seven Silkworm missiles at Kuwaiti oil installations. The missiles are believed to have been fired from the Faw peninsula, which Iran captured from Iraq two years ago.

Kuwait withdrew its

(Continued on Page 5)

Uprising continues unabated

Israel lifts blockade on occupied areas

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, April 1, (UPI): Soldiers killed two Palestinian protesters and wounded 15 others today in a clash that erupted outside a West Bank mosque after Friday prayers.

Palestinian sources charged the Army also gunned down four Arabs yesterday while the West Bank was sealed off to outsiders, including reporters.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir yesterday assailed Israel's Arab adversaries as "grasshoppers" whose heads would be smashed against the borders of Israel.

In another development, authorities said more than 700 Arabs have been placed under administrative detention since the Palestinian uprising began almost four months ago.

Under a detention order, a suspect can be jailed for six months without trial or charges.

More than 4,000 additional Palestinians have been sentenced to specific jail terms for their alleged involvement in riots.

The eruption of violence today came only hours after the military ended three days of unprecedented security measures in the occupied territories, lifting an around-the-clock curfew in the Gaza Strip and reopening the borders of the West Bank.

Measures

The crackdown was the latest in a series of increasingly harsh economic and security measures employed by authorities in an attempt to end the anti-Israeli violence, which has left at least 123 Palestinians dead and hundreds injured.

One Israeli soldier has been shot to death by an unknown gunman.

Large sections of the West Bank were closed today, preventing reporters from entering, in anticipation of more violence after Friday prayers. But despite the Army's efforts, violent demonstrations were reported in at least 17 villages and UN-run refugee camps.

In the village of Idna, soldiers shot and killed two Palestinians after an Army patrol was attacked by residents throwing rocks, iron rods and Molotov cocktails, an Army spokesman said. Fifteen other people were wounded, the spokesman said.

Palestinian sources said the killings occurred after soldiers entered the mosque grounds to break up a demonstration. Jamal Khaliq, 20, was killed when a tear gas canister fired by a soldier struck him in the head, and Is'haq Nimmer Salimiy, 18, was shot five times in the chest, the sources said.

The sources said.

(Continued on Page 5)

The sources charged that soldiers killed four Arabs in West Bank clashes yesterday, when the territory was closed to reporters, and a fifth man wounded by troops on Wednesday died of his injuries.

The Army confirmed two deaths yesterday and said the others were under investigation.

The deaths yesterday brought to nine the number of Palestinians killed by soldiers while the West Bank and Gaza were sealed off to non-residents, including reporters. More than 100 Arabs were wounded in the unsuccessful attempt to prevent violence during mass Arab protests that occurred on Wednesday.

In interviews published in two newspapers, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned the West Bank and Gaza could be sealed off again if rioting continues.

He also threatened to rescind the Israeli work permits of Palestinians involved in riots. About 100,000 West Bank and Gaza residents travel to jobs inside Israel every day.

Even after the restrictions were lifted on the territories, more than 25 villages and refugee camps remained under curfew or were declared closed military zones.

A nightly 10 pm-to-3 am curfew in Gaza, imposed March 14, after hundreds of Arab policemen bearded calls from protest leaders and resigned, also was still in place.

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Man kills daughter

A 70-year-old man stabbed his 30-year-old daughter in Rawda on Thursday night. The woman died before reaching hospital. Police in Adelyah are investigating the crime.

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں

○ پاکستان نے جمہوریہ مصر کے ساتھ دوستانہ تعلقات کا اعلان کیا

○ پاکستان کے سرحدی گاؤں میں دھماکا، ۱۵ افراد ہلاک

○ عراق نے جنگ بندی کا ایک طرف اعلان کر دیا

○ سمکھ انتہا پسندوں کے حملوں میں ۵۵ افراد ہلاک ہوئے

WEATHER

FAIR weather with moderate north-westerly wind.

State of sea: moderate to rough

High water: 12.00 am, 12.30 pm

Low water: 6.30 am, 6.30 pm

Sunrise: 5.37 am

Sunset: 6.07 pm

Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 28°C 82°F

Amman: 24°C 75°F

Fallaka: 25°C 77°F

Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 28°C 82°F

Amman: 26°C 79°F

Fallaka: 26°C 79°F

Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 12°C 54°F

Amman: 15°C 59°F

Fallaka: 14°C 57°F

Minimum temperature expected: Kuwait: 12°C 54°F

Amman: 15°C 59°F

Fallaka: 14°C 57°F

Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 34 per cent

Amman: 38 per cent

Fallaka: 30 per cent

Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 40 per cent

Amman: 55 per cent

Fallaka: 64 per cent

Mutiny on Iranian gunboat

WASHINGTON, April 1, (AP): An Iranian gunboat was taken into custody last weekend by Oman after an incident at sea during which the boat's skipper was killed in an apparent mutiny, US Defence Department officials said yesterday.

The officials, who agreed to discuss the matter only if not identified, said a lone surviving Iranian crewman remained in Omani custody and that the body of the gunboat's skipper had been recovered.

The sources stressed that details of the incident were still sketchy, primarily because the Omani government had yet to share much information.

Refused

But the officials said it appeared the captain was shot and killed by the surviving crewman after tossing a second crewman overboard to his death.

A preliminary intelligence report suggests the altercation began when the two crewmen refused the captain's order to mount an attack on a nearby commercial ship, one source added.

Return

"Since he came to the kingdom, the American ambassador has been held in esteem by the Saudi officials," the unnamed source told the agency.

"Transfer of United States ambassadors is a matter that concerns the American government," the source added.

Horan, who was named to Riyadh less than a year ago, is currently back home for consul-

Saudis deny they want US ambassador replaced

RIYADH, April 1, (AP): Saudi Arabia denied today that it had requested the replacement of US Ambassador Hume A. Horan, as reported by the Washington Post newspaper.

The paper, quoting unidentified State Department officials, said the request was made after the ambassador delivered a US complaint over the Saudi purchase of Chinese-made intermediate surface-to-surface missiles.

The official Saudi Press agency, quoting what it described as a responsible source, said the report was "totally devoid of any truth."

"Since he came to the kingdom, the American ambassador has been held in esteem by the Saudi officials," the unnamed source told the agency.

"Transfer of United States ambassadors is a matter that concerns the American government," the source added.

Horan, who was named to Riyadh less than a year ago, is currently back home for consul-

tations on a number of issues. News that he might not return has raised eyebrows among the Western community in the capital, but many conceded that they could not tell whether there was any truth in newspaper report.

Acquisition of the Chinese missiles by Saudi Arabia, a close Arab friend of the United States, was only recently disclosed and it

LATE NEWS

THE US State Department officially confirmed late Friday that US ambassador to Saudi Arabia Hume Horan has been relieved of his post in Riyadh, but it refused to give the reason for this sudden move.

grew into a major issue after Israel expressed concern. The missiles have a range of about 3,000 kms (1,850 miles).

The missiles can reach Israel, with which Saudi Arabia is theoretically in a state of war, and are capable of carrying

nuclear warheads. Both Saudi Arabia and China have assured the United States such warheads won't be fitted.

State Department officials told the Post that Horan, who took his post in Saudi Arabia in September, would not be going back, but denied he had been declared persona non grata.

The Post said US Middle East experts had said it was the first time an American ambassador had been withdrawn at Saudi request since the countries established diplomatic relations in 1933.

Secretary of State George Shultz, who left yesterday for visits to Italy and the Middle East, was scheduled to visit Saudi Arabia next week when the issue of the Chinese missiles was expected to be discussed.

Shultz already expressed US concern about the sale of the CSS-2 rockets to the Saudis when he spoke in Washington earlier last month with China's Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian.

State Department press duty

(Continued on Page 2)

41 mines destroyed in Gulf

MANAMA, April 1, (Agencies): The US Navy has found and destroyed 41 mines in the Gulf since its sweeping operations began last year, including 13 in the past three months, a military spokesman said today.

The updated figure doubles the number of mines previously reported to have been destroyed by the Americans. In late November, after the Navy's Korean war-vintage ocean mine sweepers went into action and quickly found 15 mines in the northern Gulf, commanders reported the mine threat was "under control."

When asked about the current situation, the Navy said today through its spokesman that "our mine countermeasure force is well suited for the requirements at hand."

The Navy's report said the mines most recently found were "heavily encrusted with marine vegetation," indicating they had been in the water for months.

US officers have refused to say whether they have found evidence of any recent mine-laying activity by Iran.

(Continued on Page 2)

Sikhs kill 35 in day of violence

Bloodbath in Punjab

PANGOTA, India, April 1, (Agencies): Suspected Sikh militants shot and killed 35 people, including 14 women and seven children, in the bloodiest single day of violence this year in troubled Punjab state, police and witnesses said today.

The killings brought the number of people killed in such attacks this week to more than 80 and prompted police in Amritsar to impose night curfews in parts of the district.

In New Delhi, the federal capital, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi ordered new police alerts in five states that adjoin Punjab.

Visit

Rajiv also met government officials of the Home Ministry and ordered stringent steps to curb Sikh violence, United News of India reported.

Rajiv ordered the governor of Punjab to visit violence-torn areas and to report by tomorrow as politicians said he was close to imposing a state of emergency on the state.

Rajiv was due to visit north-east India tomorrow but All-India Radio said he would shorten his visit to chair a top-level meeting in New Delhi later in the day, at which Punjab Governor Siddhartha Shankar Ray would give his report.

The move toward the declaration, which would drastically curtail civil rights in the north-west Indian state, came after a day of extremist violence.

Yesterday's attacks came hours after an umbrella organisation spearheading the movement to establish a Sikh homeland in Punjab state called for an end to killings of moderate Sikhs.

Most of the killings have been near Amritsar, the site of the Golden Temple, the Sikhs' holiest shrine and a centre for militants. Most of the victims were Hindus, India's religious majority, but minority in Punjab.

Authorities blamed the latest spate of violence on differences within militant groups and

attempts to sabotage government moves to reach an accord with militants. At least 330 of the 618 people killed this year in attacks blamed on the militants have been Sikhs who do not support the demand for an independent Sikh homeland.

Dragged

Eighteen people died in a hamlet outside Pangota, 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of Amritsar. 12 militants stormed the huts of a Hindu work commune, local police officer S.S. Virk said. Fifteen of the victims were dragged out of their homes at gunpoint, lined up in a courtyard and shot, he said.

The gunmen also killed a pregnant woman, her six-month-old daughter and her 80-year-old mother-in-law at their home, Virk said.

At Shaeed village, 10 kilometres (six miles) west of Pangota, another group of militants gunned down six Hindus, including three women and a two-year-old boy.

Iraq declares 3-day truce in war of cities

NICOSIA, April 1, (Agencies): Iraq said it fired two missiles into Kirkuk, Iraq's northern oil capital, early today after Iraq declared it would halt missile strikes on Iranian cities for three days while Turkey's prime minister visited Baghdad.

Iraq said many civilians were killed or wounded in the strikes.

Baghdad's Iraqi News Agency did not announce any retaliation. A three-day truce in the "war of the cities," which was announced by Iraq and began at midnight Thursday, appeared largely to be holding.

The Iraqis said they were ceasing the warplane and missile raids on Iran's cities as a courtesy to Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, who arrived in Baghdad today.

A press photographer reported from Kurdistan that Iran's Revolutionary Guards were pushing westward into the strategic region in an offensive first launched March 16

INTERNATIONAL

400,000 books
burned in
Soviet fire

MOSCOW, April 1, (AP): The head of the Soviet culture fund described a fire that burned 400,000 old books and periodicals as a "national disaster" and bitterly criticised library administrators for trying to hide the loss.

Historian Dmitri Likhachev, a widely respected 81-year-old scholar, demanded that the director and deputy director of the Academy of Science Library in Leningrad be fired for lying about the size of the loss and delaying serious restoration work.

His comments were in a page-long article published in March 18 edition of the weekly Knizhnoye Obozreniye, which the Associated Press obtained today.

Disaster

The Feb 14 fire "can rightly be called a national disaster," Likhachev said. "Our culture has suffered a huge loss."

The Academy of Science Library began collecting books, manuscripts and periodicals in 1714, and for more than 200 years was located in a building on Leningrad's Vasiliyevsky island. In the 1920s it was moved to a new building built especially for it on the island.

Likhachev's article was the most serious and alarming of several that have appeared in the Soviet press since the fire, and was particularly striking for its bitter tone.

Award for exposing misuse of funds by television evangelists

Charlotte Observer wins Pulitzer

NEW YORK, April 1, (Reuters): The Charlotte Observer newspaper, which exposed the misuse of funds by television evangelists Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker's PTL ministry, on Thursday won the 1988 Pulitzer prize for public service, American journalism's highest award.

The year's best play award went to Alfred Uhry for "Driving Miss Daisy" and Toni Morrison, much respected black woman novelist, won the fiction award for "Beloved."

New York Times correspondent Thomas Friedman won the international reporting award for his coverage of Israel.

Investigation

In 1983 he shared the same award for his coverage of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

The Wall Street Journal won two awards while the general news reporting award was shared by two newspapers.

The Alabama Journal shared the general news reporting award

with the Lawrence, Mass., Eagle-Tribune.

The Alabama Journal won for an investigation of the state's unusually high infant mortality rate, which prompted legislation to combat the problem.

The Lawrence Eagle-Tribune staff won for an investigation that revealed serious flaws in the Massachusetts prisoner release programme.

Daniel Hertzberg and James Stewart of the Wall Street Journal won the explanatory journalism award for stories about an investment banker charged for insider trading and the critical day that followed the October 19, 1987, "Black Monday" stock market crash.

Walt Bogdanich of the Wall Street Journal won the specialised reporting award for a series on faulty testing by American medical laboratories.

The Philadelphia Inquirer's Tim Weiner won the national reporting award for a series on a



Thomas Friedman

secret defence department budget used by the government to sponsor defence research and an arms build-up. Weiner's series was also a finalist in the explanatory journalism category.

The Chicago Tribune's Dean

Baquet, William Gaines and Ann-Marie Lipinski won the investigative reporting award for a series detailing the self-interest and waste that plague Chicago's city council.

David Herbert Donald won the Pulitzer for biography for his book "Look Homeward: A Life of Thomas Wolfe" and the general non-fiction award went to Richard Rhodes for "The Making of the Atomic Bomb."

The history award went to Robert Bruce for "The Launching of Modern American Science 1846-1876."

William Bolcom won the Pulitzer prize for music for his "12 New Etudes for Piano."

The poetry award went to William Meredith for his work "Partial Accounts."

The award for newspaper feature writing went to Jacqui Banaszynski of the St Paul (Minn.) Pioneer press dispatch for an account of the life and death of an AIDS victim in a rural

farm community.

Acerbic Washington Post television critic Tom Shales won the Pulitzer for criticism while Jane Healy of the Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel won for editorial writing for a series protesting overdevelopment of a local county.

Humour

Dave Barry of the Miami Herald won the Pulitzer for commentary for "his consistently effective use of humour as a device for presenting fresh insights into serious concerns."

The editorial cartooning award went to Doug Marlette of the Atlanta Constitution and Charlotte Observer.

Michel Ducille of the Miami Herald won the feature photography award for photos showing a housing project overrun by drug dealers and a spot news photography award went to Scott Shaw of the Odessa (Texas) American for his photograph of the child Jessica McClure being rescued from the well into which she had fallen.

Violin fetches £473,000

LONDON, April 1, (AP): A 1709 Stradivarius named in honour of English concert violinist Marie Hall fetched £473,000 (\$889,240) at a Sotheby's sale yesterday, the highest auction price ever paid for a musical instrument.

The violin, acquired by Marie Hall in 1905, was bought by an

unidentified South American dealer, Sotheby's reported. The dealer beat out two other foreign rivals bidding by telephone in a tense, two-minute auction.

The previous highest auction price for a violin by Italian craftsman Antonio Stradivari was £440,000 (\$728,000).

NEWS IN
BRIEF

Avalanche

ISLAMABAD, April 1, (AP): Authorities have recovered 39 bodies from an avalanche that crushed a remote mountain village earlier this week in northern Pakistan, the government-run Associated Press of Pakistan reported today.

APP said 11 people still may be buried in the Arund village high in the Korakoram mountain range.

Seven people, including two children, were rescued after the massive snow-slide destroyed the village, the agency said.

McMahon dies

SYDNEY, April 1, (AP): Sir William McMahon, a former prime minister, died yesterday after a long battle with cancer. He was 80.

McMahon died early yesterday at St Luke's Hospital in Sydney and was cremated in a private service shortly afterwards, family members said.

McMahon served as prime minister and head of the Liberal Party in 1971-72, and previously headed the treasury and foreign affairs department.

Saudis deny
they want
US ambassador
replaced

(Continued from Page 1)

officer Anita Stockman said last night that she was unaware of the Saudi request.

Saudi Arabia, an ally of Iraq's, says it needed the missiles to protect itself in case of a further escalation in the Iran-Iraq war, especially in view of Iranian threats.

But US officials say the Saudis bought the missiles in frustration over repeated attempts by the US Congress to block American arms sales.

The kingdom began negotiating the deal with the Chinese in 1985, after Congress blocked the sale of 48 F-15 jet fighters to Saudi Arabia. Congress late last year agreed to sell the Saudis 24 F-15s in order to maintain Saudi air strength at its current levels.

The CSS-2 rockets, US officials say, are not yet operational.

In London, British Foreign Office Minister David Mello and Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa have discussed Saudi Arabia's purchase of the missiles, a Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday.

Meanwhile, Bahrain and Pakistan said Saudi Arabia was acquiring the Chinese missiles for defence of its national security had exercised its sovereign right which cannot be challenged.

Iraq declares
3-day truce in
war of cities

(Continued from Page 1)

Before leaving Ankara, Ozal said recent news reports suggesting the possibility of Turkish military intervention in north-east Iraq to save the Kirkuk oil fields were "pure speculation."

"Turkey has enough territory," he told reporters at Ankara airport. "We are not after an adventure. I want everyone to know this very clearly."

Ozal was greeted on arrival at the airport in Baghdad by first Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, with whom he will hold talks on economic cooperation between the two countries.

He probably will meet later in his visit with President Saddam Hussein. Ozal reportedly will leave on Sunday evening.

Abducted businessman
escapes in London

LONDON, April 1, (AP): A Lebanese businessman escaped from kidnappers who kept him prisoner in a rural bungalow for 24 hours and demanded 5 million Swiss francs (\$3.7 million) for his release, Scotland Yard said today.

Telephone calls demanding payment of the ransom were made to the home of Ramzi Ata Dalloul for 15 hours after he escaped, apparently by members of the kidnap gang who were unaware that he had gotten away, police said.

Anti-terrorist squad detectives arrested a man who accompanied 52-year-old Dalloul to his home in London's fashionable Kensington district on Wednesday night and were still questioning him today.

Unharmed

Scotland Yard refused to comment on British media reports that Dalloul had persuaded the man, who was his only guard at the time, to help him escape.

Police said they were looking for at least four other men in connection with the kidnapping.

Dalloul, managing director of

Rad Projects and Developments, which is a management consulting firm, was unharmed but shaken by the ordeal.

He was kidnapped on Tuesday night after his car was rammed on the way home from his office in London's West End.

During an argument over who was responsible, police said, a man wearing dark blue slacks and a dark blue sweater whom Dalloul wrongly assumed to be a police officer arrived on the scene and suggested that he sit in the other car while the matter was sorted out.

"He did so and was immediately threatened by a number of men and forced to the floor in the rear of the car and threatened with an object, possibly a gun, which was held to his temple," a police statement said.

Dalloul was driven in the car for about 15 minutes before being bundled into the back of a white van and tied up. He was then taken to a bungalow in Tenterden, Kent, about 40 miles (64 km) southeast of London, where he was handcuffed while one man kept guard. The others left, police said.



Pope John Paul II kisses the feet of a priest during a service in St John's Basilica to commemorate the Last Supper. (Reuters wire-photo)

Filipinos mark Good
Friday with crucifixion

SAN PEDRO CUTUD, Philippines, April 1, (Agencies): Christians all over the world today commemorate Good Friday, the anniversary of Jesus' crucifixion.

Thousands of Filipinos celebrated Good Friday by beating their backs bloody with crude whips or dragging huge wooden crosses, and some had themselves crucified.

Roman Catholic church leader in Asia's only predominantly Christian country from on the annual and Easter ordeal but the tradition goes on in hundreds of towns and rural communities to commemorate the death of Jesus Christ.

In the village of San Pedro Cutud, in Pampanga province, about 80 km (50 miles) north of Manila, a crowd of 5,000 watched four men being crucified, including one, Mario Castro, who had gone through the ritual nine years in a row.

In a nearby town, a woman was nailed to the cross for the 12th straight year.

Tradition

For Chito Sangala, one of the four men crucified at San Pedro Cutud, it was the first time.

"I do it because I love my mother and want God to make her better," said the 28-year-old

fish vendor.

"For eight years, I flagellated myself but she still got sick. So I decided to be crucified so she would get better once and for all."

Villagers say the Philippines' first crucifixion was in San Pedro Cutud in 1962 but the tradition of flagellants marching through the streets barefoot, wearing hoods and thorn crowns dates back to the arrival of Spanish missionaries in the 1500s.

In Rome, Pope John Paul washed and kissed the feet of 12 elderly priests yesterday in a ritual commemorating Christ's gesture on humility toward his apostles at the Last Supper on the night before he was crucified.

Kissed

The Pope poured water on, dried and kissed the right foot of each of the priests from the diocese of Rome during the Holy Thursday sung mass in Rome's basilica of St John in Lateran, his cathedral church in his capacity as Bishop of Rome.

In occupied Jerusalem hundreds of Christian pilgrims crowded the narrow streets of the old city, carrying wooden crosses and singing psalms along the via Dolorosa to commemorate Good Friday.

Authorities hit Sicilian Mafia drug ring

130 detained in
US and Italy

WASHINGTON, April 1, (Agencies): American and Italian authorities arrested more than 130 people in connection with an investigation into a Mafia drug ring that used cocaine from the United States to buy heroin in Italy for return to US markets, officials said.

The FBI said that 69 people had been arrested in the United States and 68 in Italy by midday yesterday. Authorities said 96 others were being sought by Italian authorities.

Attorney General Edwin Meese III called it "the largest international drug case ever developed by the Department of Justice." He said it would have a "significant impact on heroin imports into this country from Italy."

Meese said the investigation uncovered a Sicilian Mafia plan in which cocaine was exported from different points in the United States to Switzerland and Italy. From those countries, it was exchanged for a southwest Asian heroin that then was smuggled back to the United States, he said.

Attempt

"This is one of the few situations in which there was an attempt to set up a barrier economy in drugs," the attorney general said.

The exchange was profitable because cocaine is less expensive in the United States than in Italy, while heroin is cheaper in Italy than the United States. Two kilograms of cocaine can be exchanged for one kilogram of heroin in Italy, FBI spokesman Gregory Jones said. A kilogram equals about 2.2 pounds.

US authorities seized six kilograms of heroin and four kilograms of cocaine during the course of the investigation. Italian authorities seized 22 kilograms of heroin last month.

The investigation began two years ago and grew out of a 1985 drug case that came to be called the "Pizza Connection," which grew out of an FBI investigation of the Bonanno Mafia family in New York. Thirty-five members of the Sicilian Mafia were indicted in New York as a result of the "Pizza Connection" investigation.

Skills

In Bangkok, narcotics officials said today that American drug dealers are lending their entrepreneurial skills to Thailand's blossoming marijuana trade, providing money, transportation and streamlined processing to help farmers boost their illicit production.

"A lot of Thailand's marijuana is produced with US technical assistance, and it is one of the areas where our transfer of technology and private entrepreneurship is the best," a Western narcotics official said.

"American marijuana dealers come over to Thailand, provide money, seed, fertilizer and induce Thai farmers to grow marijuana," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

Maj Gen Chawali Yodmani, head of the Thai office of Narcotics Control Board, agreed that outside assistance may be boosting production.

Bald Japanese seek
miracle cure in China

BEIJING, April 1, (AP): For about \$3,000, Japanese tourists can see the Great Wall, eat Peking duck and grow hair with Zhao Zhangguang's magic hair-restoring potion.

Ninety-eight bald and thin-haired Japanese arrived today by bus at Zhao's clinic at the Jinsong hospital in eastern Beijing for their first treatment with 101 hair liniment, a liquid made from 30 secret herbal medicines.

They are the second Japanese group, following 20 who arrived in February, to come to China on a 388,000-yen (\$3,100) package tour that includes treatment at the clinic.

Among the first 20, "some have already started to grow hair," said Kenichi Morita, President of China-Japan treatment headquarters, a private Tokyo medical firm sponsoring the tours.

Most of the Japanese said they had signed up for the trip after reading in newspapers about 101, which Zhao, a former farmer with only six years of formal education, developed after 10 years of private research.

Dr. Liu Qirong, the chief of 12 dermatologists at the clinic, said they have treated about 2,700

Chinese in the past year, with 92 per cent showing some new growth of hair. For people who have lost hair in patches, the success rate is 100 per cent, she said.

According to the official news agency Xinhua, more than 100,000 people have been treated with 101 since production began a year ago, with an improvement rate of 97.5 per cent and a cure rate of 84 per cent.

Cleaning The liniment, Liu said, works by stimulating circulation of the blood and cleaning out hair follicles. A second medicine, 102, is available to ensure that the new head of hair will not fall out in the future.

One slightly balding, 40-year-old man from Osaka, Japan, said he read about the cure in a magazine and decided to join the tour because "it's better to have hair than not to have hair."

But for some it is more serious. Yuki Matsushita, a 6-year-old from Fukuoka, lost all his hair 18 months ago, and Japanese doctors have had no success in either identifying or solving the problem, his grandmother Yoshie Kuga said.

"We have high hopes. Nothing else has worked," she said.

7 killed, 18 hurt
in blast near
Afghan border

ISLAMABAD, April 1, (AP): A bomb deposited in a poultry shop near the Afghan border exploded, killing seven people and injuring 18, the official government newspaper reported today.

Also yesterday, two other people were killed and two were wounded in another frontier village by incoming Afghan artillery rounds, the English-language Pakistan Times said.

The bombing occurred in the northwestern village of Sadda when a man purchased a hen then asked the shop owner to keep the bird and a parcel for him while he finished his shopping, the Times said.

The man has not been apprehended and no group claimed responsibility, the paper said. Pakistani officials have blamed a series of terrorist bombings over the past two years on agents of Afghanistan's Soviet-backed government.

Fighting

Pakistan supports the guerrillas fighting that government and shelters about 3.5 million Afghan refugees.

The shelling occurred in a village identified as Ghakh, the Times said.

Cross-border shelling and aerial bombings have been frequent in the 10-year-old Afghan war.

Both of yesterday's attacks occurred in semi-autonomous districts ruled by Pashtun tribal clans that are normally off limits to Pakistani police and military. They are also the main staging areas for Afghan guerrillas.

2 die in
US fighter
crash

KARLSRUHE, West Germany, April 1, (Agencies): A US Air Force fighter plane crashed into the centre of the West German village of Forst yesterday, killing the pilot and at least one resident, officials said.

The head of the regional council in Karlsruhe, 10 km (six miles) from the crash site, said firemen dug out the body of a local inhabitant from the debris of a burnt house.

The body of the pilot had been found earlier. West German television quoted officials as saying they could not rule out finding more bodies in the remains of at least four houses destroyed in the crash.

The television report said an eyewitness described the scene as a "field of rubble."

The plane was believed to have hit the roofs of several buildings before falling to the ground in a residential area of the village, which has a population of about 6,000.

The wreckage of the plane was emitting hydrazine, a poisonous fuel gas, and inhabitants from more than 40 homes had been evacuated, a police spokesman said.

On Wednesday the French Mirage crashed in a woods about 50 miles (80 km) northeast of Munich, killing the pilot. The crash site was about 1.2 miles (2 kilometres) from a nuclear power plant.

Franz Peter Basten, deputy interior minister in Rhineland Palatinate said there is a nuclear power plant outside Karlsruhe, 11 miles (18 km) southwest of Forst.

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Move to remove major obstacle to Afghan settlement

US seeks accord on aid to rivals

ROME, April 1. (AP): In a strategic shift, US Secretary of State George Shultz said today he is seeking arrangements with the Soviet Union for continuing US and Soviet military aid to rival factions in Afghanistan.

The intent would be to remove the only major obstacle to a negotiated settlement of the 8-year-old Afghanistan war and the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the country.

The United States would prefer to have a moratorium on military aid, but "to date the Soviets have not wanted to do that," Shultz told reporters while flying to Rome.

Obstacle
Shultz arrived in Rome for talks with Italian officials. He plans to leave Sunday for occupied Jerusalem on a five-day shuttle aimed at encouraging Arab-Israeli negotiations to end Palestinian unrest in Israeli-occupied territories.

In March, Shultz proposed to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze that both sides declare a moratorium in Afghanistan, to be in effect while the Soviets withdrew their estimated 120,000 troops and for three

months afterward.

The Soviets accused the United States of posing a last-minute obstacle to an agreement. Negotiations stalled between Afghanistan and Pakistan, which represents Afghan rebel interests.

The issue of US and Soviet military aid to rival forces has become an impediment to improved superpower relations and a key regional dispute confronting organisers of a May superpower summit in Moscow.

Shultz made it clear he preferred a suspension of Soviet aid to the Marxists and a matching cutoff of US support for the resistance groups. American weapons have included Stinger missiles that were effective against Soviet planes and helicopters.

Restraint
But Shultz said the overall goal was "a balanced outcome." He said there was nothing in the Geneva accords to settle the war "that tells us we cannot support our friends."

"If the Soviets exercise restraint, we are prepared to exercise restraint," he said.

Shultz said he did not know

whether the Soviets would go along with the equal levels of aid to the two sides.

But he stressed the United States was prepared to guarantee a settlement even while weapons kept flowing to the combatants.

"If we have signed the accords and see a need to support our friends we will be able to do it," he said.

Shultz said he discussed the idea on the telephone Wednesday with Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and that President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq then called President Ronald Reagan.

Cessation
"So these things are in place," Shultz said. "Where we will all come out remains to be seen."

During talks with Shevardnadze in Washington last month, Shultz renewed a plea for what the United States has been calling a "symmetrical cessation" of superpower aid in the Afghan combatants.

The new proposal, rather than calling for symmetrical cessation of aid, envisions parallel continuation of assistance.

"We now express the policy in

the Mujahadeen as long as the Soviet Union continues aid to the Kabul government," US spokesman Fitzwater said.

"The basic point to make is that our policy has not changed in the sense that we will not desert the Afghan rebels," the spokesman said. "We will not cut off money to them as long as the Soviets are providing aid."

Charge
Fitzwater did not explain how the new US language might be more palatable to the Soviets except to say "there are some negotiating reasons why it could be useful to allow the agreement to be signed in Geneva and clear the way for a pullout."

Meanwhile, Afghan President Najibullah accused the West of slowing "in every way" a solution to the Afghan conflict, the official Soviet news agency Tass reported.

Najibullah was quoted as telling a news conference in Kabul on Wednesday this was partly reflected in the indirect peace talks in Geneva between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Pakistan is home to about three million Afghan refugees

and rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul. Moscow has offered to start withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan if an agreement is reached at the United Nations sponsored talks in Geneva.

But progress has been held up by US-Soviet differences over ending aid to the rebels and the Kabul government.

"If real progress has not been attained by today, the responsibility of this rests squarely with Pakistan and the United States," Tass quoted Najibullah as saying.

He said his "national reconciliation" policy of offering to share power with Western-backed rebels had run into "great difficulties."

An alliance of guerrilla movements based in Pakistan on Wednesday rejected Najibullah's renewed invitation to stand in national assembly elections in April.

The Afghan leader said Western countries continued to supply weapons to the rebels, despite Kabul's unilateral declaration of a ceasefire, and that they were preventing refugees from returning to Afghanistan.



● Irina Lvina, an engineer at a Moscow optics factory, goes for an icy swim after cutting a hole in the ice. Enthusiasts believe that a three-minute swim in icy water is good for health and removes tiredness. (Reuter radiophoto)

33 extremists go on trial in Cairo

CAIRO, April 1. (Reuters): The trial of 33 Muslim hardliners accused of trying to kill two former ministers and a prominent editor starts tomorrow in the second such mass trial since the assassination of President Anwar Sadat.

The prosecution has demanded death sentences for 15 of the defendants, saying they were members of a group calling itself "The Freedom From Hell."

They were charged with resisting arrest and killing a police officer in a gun battle last August. The others face possible prison terms if convicted on lesser charges at the trial in a security court.

Charges against the accused include forming a "paramilitary clandestine terrorist group which brands society as blasphemous and atheist."

Charges

The indictment sheet charged the defendants with attempts to assassinate former Interior Ministers Hassan Abu Basha and Nabawi Ismail, and the editor of the state-owned weekly political review Al-Mussawar, Makram Mohammed Ahmed.

Police confiscated rifles, pistols, hand grenades, bombs and bullets from the accused.

An elite armed police force ringed the makeshift courtroom, part of an exhibition centre at Nasr City, a Cairo suburb.

A group of 300 members of the Jihad (holy war) organisation whose militants gunned down Sadat during a military parade in October 1981, were also tried in the same courtroom.

In an unprecedented move, judge Omar Al Oteifi, president of a three-member panel bearing the case, called a news conference on Tuesday to announce that special permits would be issued for journalists, relatives as well as lawyers.

Victims

The first victim was Abu Basha, seriously wounded last May 5 when gunmen sprayed his car with a hail of bullets from two sub-machineguns.

Abu Basha, Interior Minister from 1982 to 1984, has played a major role in rounding up Muslim fundamentalists after Sadat was murdered. Hardliners also accuse him of encouraging their persecution.

Carlucci in Morocco for arms talks

MARRAKESH, Morocco, April 1. (Reuters): US Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci arrived in Marrakesh today for a three-day visit to Morocco during which he will discuss military cooperation with King Hassan and other government leaders.

At the start of a tour which will also take him to India, Pakistan and Tunisia, Carlucci said there had been "excellent cooperation" between Morocco and the United States for over 200 years.

Speaking in French, he said he was convinced that political, economic, cultural and military cooperation would continue in the interests of both countries.

Moroccan officials said Carlucci would meet Prime Minister Azzeddine Laraki and General Mohammed Achabbbar, secretary-general of the defence administration, and visit military bases.

Morocco and the United States are linked by a military cooperation accord signed in 1982 which expires next May. Under the pact Morocco grants transit facilities for American rapid deployment forces in the event of a crisis in the Gulf.

Foes fail to chalk out anti-Ershad plan

DHAKA, April 1. (Reuters): Bangladeshi opposition parties failed to agree on Thursday on a new strategy to force President Hussain Muhammad Ershad to resign.

Opposition sources said the eight-party alliance led by Sheikh Hasina and the seven-party group headed by Begum Khaleda Zia both felt the need to strengthen their campaign to drive Ershad out by April 8.

"But the undercurrent of difference between Hasina and Khaleda is still holding their followers largely apart," one man said.

Ershad, apparently unmoved by the deadline, reshuffled his cabinet on Sunday and left for a state visit to Thailand the next day.

The reshuffle followed elec-

tions on March 3 boycotted by the major opposition parties. The polls, marred by bombings and gunbattles between rival factions in which at least 15 people were killed, gave a landslide victory to Ershad's Jatiya Party.

Campaign
The two opposition alliances said that unless Ershad, a former general who seized power in a 1982 bloodless coup, quits by April 8 he will face a crippling indefinite general strike.

He has already survived a stormy opposition campaign that included 26 days of strikes since November and refuses to step down under pressure.

Opponents also criticise his plans to change the electoral system to end ballot-rigging and to make Islam the state religion.

Indian troops patrol Sri Lankan villages

Tamil rebels kill 17 Muslims

COLOMBO, April 1. (Reuters): Indian troops and Sri Lankan police patrolled two villages in Eastern Sri Lanka today where officials said at least 17 people were killed by Tamil guerrillas.

Police and Indian High Commission officials said 17 bodies had been found after rebels stormed the villages of Mallaiyakadu and Sainamuruthu, about 40 km south of Batticaloa yesterday.

Bodies

Residents said at least 40 people were killed when the rebels went on the rampage, shooting people and burning their houses. Police were unable to confirm the higher figure.

District development council chairman Haniffa Jaupher said by telephone smoke was still rising from dozens of bags of rice set on fire during the attack.

"The two villages, inhabited by Muslims, are deserted. Only Indian soldiers and police are there. People are afraid to return to their homes," he said.

He said about 40 gunmen stormed through the two villages, raiding a mosque, setting fire to at least 100 houses and shooting at random. He said he saw four bodies at a mosque.

Jaupher said about 7,000 people sought shelter in schools while others were staying with relatives.

Denial
He said about 30 people had been injured and were being treated at private hospitals. The dead would be buried at separate funerals today, he said.

Residents said a guerrilla group called "Three Stars" was responsible for the attack and

alleged that Indian soldiers did not prevent the violence. "They just looked on," one of them said.

An Indian official denied the charge. He said soldiers rushed to the area when told of the raids, "but by that time the attacks had ended."

More than 50,000 Indian troops have been deployed in the island's North and East to enforce last year's Indo-Sri Lanka accord which was aimed at ending a Tamil revolt for a separate state.

Yesterday's attack was the second raid in a week in the area. Last Saturday, rebels set fire to 25 Muslim-owned shops in Kalmunai, a coastal town 30 km south of Batticaloa, which has a mixed Tamil and Muslim population.

Iranians urged to 'slap' West

NICOSIA, April 1. (Reuters): Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini called on Thursday for stepped up attacks on Iraq to slap the West and blind the Eastern bloc in one stroke.

"The big powers of East and West want to crush you under their dirty boots and in their bloody claws, without you making as much as a sound," he told the Iranian people in a message ahead of next week's parliamentary elections.

"Today is the day of resistance. Slap American and Western arrogance in the face in such a way its flash would blind Eastern arrogance," said the message, read on Tehran Radio.

Iran has accused Washington of supporting Iraq in the 7-1/2-year-old war and Moscow of supplying Baghdad with arms.

The 85-year-old leader said it was time for war, resistance and sacrifice.

"Hesitation today will lead to enslavement tomorrow. One should discard worldly attachments, put on the armour of holy war and resistance, and march on."

Khomeini said Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities could be aimed at stopping people from voting in the elections set for April 8.

"The noble people of Iran will hold the elections as scheduled with a massive turnout, and would go to the polls even if it is attacked by rockets and bombs," Khomeini said.

Rajiv's cousin faces corruption charges

NEW DELHI, April 1. (AP): The government has filed preliminary charges against Arun Nehru, a cousin and former adviser of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who has since turned political foe of the Indian leader, in connection with alleged corruption in a foreign arms deal, officials said Thursday.

"We have filed a case against Nehru under the Prevention of Corruption Act for ordering defective pistols from Czechoslovakia," said M.G. Katre, director of the Central Bureau of Investigation, which is similar to the American FBI.

Nehru now is a leading member of the "Jan Morcha," or people's front, an opposition group consisting of disgruntled members of Rajiv's Congress Party. He was India's Home Minister when the weapons contract was signed in September 1986.

The 210-million rupee (\$16-million) contract is with Mercuria of Czechoslovakia for supply of 55,000 pistols to be used by the Special Protection Group, an elite commando force which guards political leaders, including Rajiv.

Indian newspapers have carried reports that some of the pistols failed to fire when tested. The charge comes after Nehru and other political opponents of Rajiv have accused the government of corruption in connection with various other arms deals.

In a statement issued Thurs-



Arun Nehru said the charge against him stemmed from a "political vendetta" intended to silence criticism against the government.

"Suffice it to say that if the party in power has initiated such proceedings to silence political dissent, they are sadly mistaken. Such puerile and petulant acts only expose their inherent weaknesses," Nehru said in a statement.

Nehru, a member of parliament, was expelled from the ruling Congress Party after political differences with Rajiv last year. He has since joined the "Jan Morcha," led by former Defence Minister V.P. Singh.

Singh resigned after he ordered an investigation into a submarine deal that India had signed with West Germany amid allegations that people close to Rajiv received pay-offs for the contract.

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Rashed denounces Israeli measures

PLO stages rally on Land Day

THE Palestine Liberation Organisation staged a rally on Thursday marking the Land Day under the patronage of the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

The Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed addressed the gathering on behalf of Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed highly praising the uprising which he said challenged the latest sophisticated military hardware and drove the Israeli occupiers mad at the self-denial and courageous sacrifice of the Palestinian youth.

He pointed out that the more atrocities Israel committed against the unarmed Palestinians the more determined the rightful

owners of the land become in bravely defending their home and driving out the occupiers.

The Kuwaiti minister, however, paid tribute to the nations that supported the legitimate Palestinian right and denounced the Israeli barbaric measures, vowing continued assistance to the struggle of the Palestinians for a settlement based on justice and peace under the PLO.

Assistance
Expecting the peace-loving forces in the world to extend all assistance in the uprising to help it keep its present momentum, Rashed specifically signalled out the Arab states as expected today more so than ever before to give political, material, moral and media assistance.

Rashed said Israel was pursu-

ing its aggressive policies against the Palestinians relying on the support it is getting from the forces of evil in the world and from the differences of opinion among the Arabs.

The minister stressed the importance nowadays of the unity of the Arab states assuring the audience that Kuwait has always stated its support for the struggle of the Palestinians in their full national rights.

Finance
Rashed recalled that in his capacity as current chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, HH the Amir urged the Islamic countries to extend all possible assistance to the uprising of the Palestinians assuring the gathering that Kuwait will save no effort at all levels in supporting the brothers in occupied

Palestine.

Deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council and member of the Central Committee of Fatah Salim Al Zaanoun spoke assuring the listeners who included Arab ambassadors and a number of prominent citizens, that the uprising will continue unabated even if outside assistance is cut off from it.

The Palestinians are now fighting for the independent state after which they can unite with one or more of the Arab states, he asserted calling on the Palestinian community in the Gulf states to finance studies of over 2,000 Palestinian students in Europe after assistance has been cut off from them.

Others spoke along the same lines of unwavering support for the cause.



Sheikh Jaber Mubarak presenting prizes to outstanding students.

Soviet-made anti-aircraft missile found on Iranian boat

TWO portable anti-aircraft missiles, tentatively identified as Soviet-made SAM-7s, were found aboard an Iranian gunboat recovered by the US Navy last week, a US military official in the Gulf said on Thursday.

Weapons on the boat, found abandoned and drifting in the Strait of Hormuz, also included three "Chaff" rockets of unknown origin and four other unidentified rockets with fusing devices, a spokesman for the US Central Command said.

Army Major Barry Willey, the spokesman, told reporters in a US Defence Department pool in the region that a twin-barrel gun mounted in the cockpit of the 30-foot boat was a Soviet-made ZSU 23 mm anti-aircraft weapon.

Modern
The gun, rusty but functional and loaded for firing when found, apparently had been used for attacks on merchant shipping in the southern Gulf and the Strait, Willey said.

He said he did not know whether the SAM-7s, which are not the most modern Soviet anti-aircraft weapons, had previously been used in the Gulf.

The Iranian boat, an open-cockpit, twin-diesel craft, was found by the US guided missile frigate Reuben James, drifting in stormy 10-foot (three-metre) seas in the Hormuz passage last Thursday.

US officers have said they do not know why the boat apparently was abandoned by the Iranians although seas were running very high. It apparently had been recently vacated by its crew and was trailing a sea anchor.

Whereabouts
The Reuben James took the boat in tow and later passed it on to another warship, Willey would not divulge the boat's whereabouts but said it was "in custody of the US Navy."

The fiberglass-hulled boat was the fourth Iranian small craft captured by the Navy in the Gulf in the past six months.

In addition to the rockets and missiles, Willey said, the boat yielded one Soviet-designed AK-47 assault rifle and 203 rounds of ammunition. 500 rounds of ammunition for the mounted gun, and related items.

The missiles believed to be SAM-7s apparently were contained in a sealed wooden box, six feet (1.82 metres) long by two feet (0.6 metres) square, found in the bottom of the boat.

Speculation
Officers on the Reuben James did not open the box, but there was speculation at the time it might contain US-built Stinger anti-aircraft missiles or other portable rockets.

US officials gave no further information on the "Chaff" rockets found on the Iranian boat.

Carried aboard most warships and aircraft in the Gulf, Chaff is composed of shards of metal blown into the air to confuse the homing system of a radar-guided missile.

US media highlight Iran's aggression

WASHINGTON, April 1, (Kuna): The American media on Thursday highlighted Iran's latest aggression against Kuwait and a number of newspapers pointed out Kuwait's exercising of self-restraint despite the attack in which two Kuwaiti soldiers were injured.

The papers also highlighted the expressions of support that Kuwait has been receiving from many countries around the world, including letters of support sent from Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Egypt who condemned the attack on the island of Bubiyan.

In its report, the New York Times noted the statement that Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed issued in which he expressed the hope that the

attack would remain "just an isolated incident." Kuwait on Wednesday submitted a protest of the attack to Iran and at the United Nations.

The paper noted the fact that Iran "has repeatedly attacked Kuwait in recent years, including the launching of Chinese-made Silkworm missiles and attacks by Iranian gunboats on Kuwaiti oil tankers."

The Washington Times newspaper had an eight-column headline reading, "Kuwait attacked by Iranian forces for the first time."

The paper quoted from a statement issued by Saudi Arabia which condemned and denounced the attack on Kuwait.

A former National Security Council adviser, Gary Sick, who

is an expert on the Gulf, said in a national public radio interview that the attack was significant because of the strategic position of the island of Bubiyan, but he predicted that he did not expect a further escalation in the Gulf conflict as a result of the attack on Kuwait.

He noted the fact that Kuwait had made it a point to maintain a dialogue with Iran in recent months.

Additional duty
DEFENCE Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed yesterday issued a decision, by which Assistant Undersecretary for legal and administrative affairs Hmoud Mohammed Al Otaihi is commissioned with the tasks of the undersecretary during his mission abroad.

Zia may brief OIC leaders on Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, April 1, (AP): President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq may brief Muslim leaders on Afghanistan at an Organisation of Islamic Conference summit April 10 in Kuwait, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The English-language paper the Muslim quoted unidentified sources as saying the summit will be held in the wake of recent Israeli threats to Saudi Arabia against its acquiring Chinese missiles, and of the intensification of Iran-Iraq's "war of the cities."

Foreign ministry spokesmen declined comment on the report. The newspaper said Zia would participate in Middle East discussions and also use the two days to brief Muslim leaders individually on Afghanistan.

Pakistan and Afghanistan's Soviet-backed government are in their fifth week of negotiations at Geneva, Switzerland, over an end to Afghanistan's 10-year civil war, including a withdrawal of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops.

Islamabad hacks Afghan Muslim insurgents and cares for some 3.5 million Afghan refugees living inside Pakistan.

Zia is scheduled to address a joint session of parliament on April 7. Afghanistan is expected to figure prominently in his speech.

Soviet delegation visits UAE

ABU DHABI, April 1, (Kuna): A special mission of the USSR Supreme Soviet, led by Vice-President of the Praesidium, Georgy Tarashevich arrived in the United Arab Emirates last night on the first leg of a Gulf tour.

In an arrival statement reported by the United Arab Emirates news agency, Tarashevich expressed pleasure at his visit and pointed out that his exchanges with UAE officials would tackle a wide-range of pressing international issues.

Talks
Official talks are slated to start Saturday morning between the Soviet delegation and officials at the National Federal Council (the appointed parliament).

The Soviet mission is also due to confer with UAE Minister of Information Ahmed Bin Hamad.

The exchanges are expected to centre on the need to halt the

Iran-Iraq dispute and its offshoot conflicts, the so-called tanker war and war of cities.

The four-month old popular Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation and oppression is also expected to feature prominently in the talks.

Bilateral relations and means of boosting them, particularly in the fields of parliamentary affairs and information would also figure in the discussions.

The Soviet mission also comprises the director general of official Soviet News Agency Tass, Sergei Losiv and the secretary-general of Soviet Writers Association, Mobobitshu Kanatov.

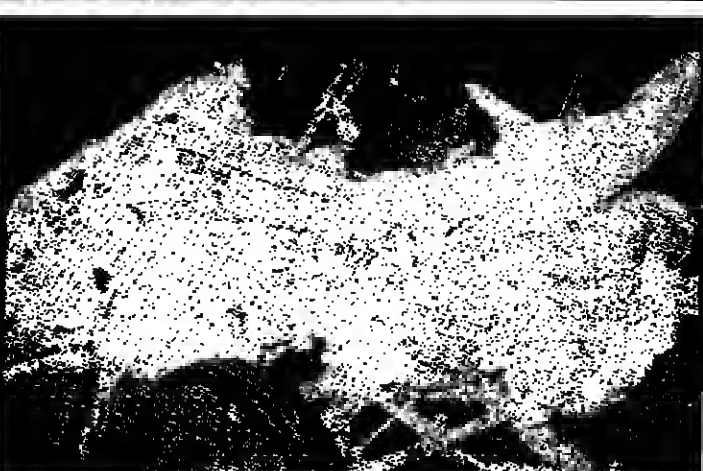
The delegation would be visiting Kuwait and possibly Oman. These are the only three countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council that maintain diplomatic relations with Moscow.

Children take computer course

THE Public Relations department at KPC held a graduation ceremony for 224 children who completed a course in computer training. The ceremony was held at the Bubiyan Club and was attended by the managing director for marketing affairs of KPC,

Sheikh Ali Jaber Al Ali Al Sabah, the children and their parents and a number of officials from KPC. Sheikh Ali made a speech praising the computer courses which first began five years ago and have so far been completed by 1267 children.

Policemen in Traffic Week accident



A police patrol car was cut in half when it collided with a saloon car driven by a Syrian last week. The accident happened at ten o'clock at night on the Fifth Ring Road near Firdous. The police car also hit a lamp-post. The two policemen in the patrol car were both seriously injured but the Syrian was only slightly hurt. Pictures show the wreckage of the police patrol car after the accident.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri cable

HH the Amir has sent a cable of congratulations to the President of Malta on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Crown Prince cable

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah has sent a cable of congratulations to the Maltese Premier Dr Eddie Fenech Adami on the occasion of his country's National Day.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Collective Gulf deterrent measures needed

THE Kuwaiti press on Thursday was sharply critical of the unprovoked Iranian gunboat attack on the Kuwaiti island Bubiyan, and sounded the need for collective Arabian Gulf iron-fist deterrent measures to stop Iranian recklessness.

Al Watan charging that Iran has been seeking to alter the geographical facts of the Gulf region, said the aggression on Bubiyan "formed a fresh link in the chain of political disarray that is a main feature of Iranian policies."

Asserting that no one knows the political gains Iran nets from its recurrent naked aggressions on Kuwait, the paper pointed out that the flagrant attack should further fuel regional tensions.

Al Watan, recalling that previous Iranian aggression on Kuwaiti oil tankers and water borders had only invoked loud condemnations, strongly called for "new methods and means for confronting the new situation."

Plot to divert attention from uprising

STRIKING a different note, the daily "Al Rai Al Aam" suggested that the grave Iranian raid on Bubiyan came in the framework of superpower plots to divert attention from the popular Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation of Arab land.

The paper pointed out that Iran relinked skirmishes with neighbours everytime Iraqi military pressures on Tehran mounted and left it with no option but desperation and failure.

The daily added that Iran's recalcitrant prosecution of the war with Iraq and its persistent attempts to drag neutral Arab states into the conflict provide only one conclusion — that survival of the Iranian regime hinges on creating troubles and crises.

Al Rai Al Aam charged that Iran is seeking to set the whole Gulf region afire at a time when the Arab states are doing their best to halt the Iran-Iraq war and mend fences with Tehran.

Iran-Israel collusion

IN A strongly worded front-page editorial, the daily Al Anba noted that "Iran and Israel are the two faces of a bad coin," and expressed belief that "any wicked deliberate aggression or provocation should be confronted with decisive action."

Al Anba charged that since coming to power in 1979, the present Iranian regime has been resorting to a variety of gimmicks and manoeuvres to hide its real bad schemes.

The paper stressed that this latest Iranian aggression "affirmed the flagrant collusion between Iran and Israel that targets the Arab nation."

GULF PRESS

Solidarity with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia

UNITED Arab Emirates newspapers said an Iranian attack on Kuwait's Bubiyan Island would increase tension and lead to a serious escalation in the Gulf.

Al Itihad praised the UAE's solidarity with Kuwait as well as Saudi Arabia in face of Israeli threats.

"The UAE in declaring its solidarity with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia illustrates the policy forged by President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, it said.

But it said the UAE has always been keen to overt any act that might increase tension through its peace bids designed to bring about peace and security in the region.

"The UAE's support for Kuwait and Saudi Arabia also reflects the real concept of Arab solidarity and Gulf Cooperation," it said.

Al Wuhda daily said it is not in the interest of anybody to expand the scope of the Iraq-Iran war. "That would mean an expansion in the scope of danger and consequently the collapse of all opportunities to achieve peace and stability," it said.

The Iranian aggression on the Kuwaiti island, it said, constituted a serious escalation because Kuwait has been neutral since the conflict broke out and has been, along with its brothers in the Gulf and the Organisation of Islamic Conference, exerting efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the war.

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| Locoste men's blouse | KD3.000 | Men's swimming wear — Arina | |
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Bahrain appoints new defence minister

MANAMA, April 1, (AP): Bahrain announced yesterday the creation of a Supreme Defence Council and the appointment of a defence minister, a portfolio that had been held to date by the Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of the Bahraini defence forces.

Decrees to this effect were issued by the Amir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Gulf News Agency reported.

The decisions marked a further step in the development of Bahrain's growing military force.

The small island state, which has a population of less than half

a million, is in line for 12 F-16s from the United States. In 1985, Bahrain acquired its first fixed-wing aircraft — 12 US-built F-5E jets.

In the past year, it has taken delivery of 54 M-60 tanks, along with associated equipment and spare parts, as well as training programmes.

The F-16 contract, approved by President Reagan in January 1987, marked the first time the United States agreed to sell the sophisticated aircraft to any Arab nation in the Gulf. The 400-million-dollar deal involves missiles, radar receivers and other gear.

Bahrain also has beefed up its

naval forces with German-made gunboats, equipped with Exocet and Harpoon missiles.

The decree on the Supreme Defence Council was published in the official gazette, GNA said. But its composition was not disclosed.

GNA reported that separate royal decrees named the Chief of Staff, Staff Gen. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, defence minister. His assistant, Staff Brig. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Salman Al Khalifa, became chief of staff.

The new defence minister will be deputy to the Commander in Chief, Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa.

Kuwait reserves right to retaliate

(Continued from Page 1)

diplomats from Tehran last July when protesters stormed its embassy after hundreds of Iranian pilgrims died in clashes with Saudi security forces in Makkah.

But since January, tensions have eased. Of 13 Iranian attacks on Gulf shipping this month, only two were on ships bound to or from Kuwait.

Qatar, Bahrain, UAE and N. Yemen have denounced the attack and Arab League

Secretary General Cheddi Klubi has also condemned the aggression.

In Tunis, participants at the 89th session of the Arab League ministerial council today denounced the Iranian aggression on the Kuwaiti island of Bubiyan last Wednesday.

The council, in a communique issued at the third closed session, affirmed its full backing of Kuwait, saying that the use of force and threat escalates the tension and hinders international efforts to establish peace and stability in the region.

Minister relieved

BAGHDAD, April 1, (AP): President Saddam Hussein yesterday relieved of his job the Construction and Housing Minister, Mohammed Fedhi Hussein, state-run television reported.

A presidential decree read over television did not give reasons for the minister's removal or say whether he was appointed to a different job.

He was replaced by the ministry's undersecretary, Taher Mohammed Al Marzouk. Both Hussein and Al Marzouk are engineers.

Earlier this month, Hussein relieved from their jobs the Minister of Light Industry, and the Minister of Heavy Industry.

US arms sales to Middle East

WASHINGTON, April 1, (UPI): The administration has approved \$5.4 billion in arms sales to Middle East countries, including 75 F-16 fighters to Israel and a variety of weapons systems to Saudi Arabia, administration sources say.

In addition to notifying Congress informally last week of a proposed \$2.1 billion sale to Egypt of the technology and equipment to build 550 M-1 front-line tanks over the next 10 years, the sources said yesterday informal notification was given of a proposed \$2 billion sale of 75 F-16 fighter planes to Israel.

Justice ministers meeting opens today

HH the Amir patronises the inauguration ceremony today of the sixth session of the council of Arab justice ministers at the Conference Centre.

Omani Justice Minister Helal Bin Saud Al Bosaeidi and his UAE opposite number Abdulla Bin Hameed Al Mazroui arrived yesterday to take part in the conference.

Qatari Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Ali Bin Ahmed Al Ansari and his accompanying delegation arrived here for the same purpose.

The ministers were received by the Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Dbari Al Othman, Secretary-General Mico and members of the Supreme Judiciary Council and a number of ranking Justice Ministry officials.

Earlier, Jordanian Justice Undersecretary Mohammed Saleh Al Sheikh, arrived here to participate in the meetings. He was received by his Kuwaiti counterpart Nasser Hamad Al Roumi and other senior ministry officials.

Justice ministers of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Iraq and Syria, also have arrived here.

Sheikh Hamad visits UAE

ABU DHABI, April 1, (Kuna): Bahrain's Crown Prince and General Commander of the Armed Forces, Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa arrived here from Manama today on a brief visit to attend the finals of a camel race.

The race, an annual event in which Arab breeds of camels compete, will also be attended by a personal representative of Sultan Qaboos of Oman, Thawaini Bin Shihab and Saudi Minister of Housing Prince Mit'eb Bin Abdul Aziz.

Rumaihi calls for efforts to contain war

MOSCOW, April 1, (Kuna): Kuwaiti editor-in-chief of Al Arabi magazine Dr Mohammed Al Rumaihi has said, "wars under the guise of religion are long-term wars", noting such thesis is based on historical evidence.

Speaking at an intellectual meeting with Soviet scientists at the Afro-Asia Institute here, Rumaihi stressed that Islam is a religion of culture and way of life to the Arabs. He pointed out that Arabs do not accept the use of Islam as a political umbrella of violence and terrorism.

He added, "we as Muslims do not accept some of the negative trends in the Soviet press towards Islam."

Theatrical festival

THE first Gulf Cooperation Council theatrical festival comes to a close today with winning participants receiving awards and medals and certificates of appreciation, the festival director Khaled Abdul Latif Ramadan said.

He said the weeklong festivities, which are hoped to be emulated by the other GCC states in the coming years, are attended by Arab critics who highly commended the performance of the troupes.

Oil slick

RAS EL KHAIMAH, UAE, April 1, (Kuna): A huge oil slick which has an area of seven square kilometres appeared off the coasts of Ras El Khaimah.

Shipping sources attributed the slick to the oil which spilled from the Cypriot supertanker, Haven, which was attacked by Iranian gunboats early yesterday while on its way to the Saudi port of Ras Tanourah.



Mona Tarsissi holds the Quran claimed to be the world's smallest. (Reuters wirephoto)

Smallest copy of the Quran

DUBAI, April 1, (Reuters): Who owns the world's smallest Quran? Claims have been made in Iran, Poland and Yugoslavia but a family in Dubai has one that is even smaller.

Mona Tarsissi said her handwritten, rice-paper volume, measuring 1.8 centimetre (three-quarters of an inch) by 1.4 centimetre (five-eighths of an inch), has been in her Lebanese family for generations.

The red Quran, which she wears in a locket, outdoes a 2.5 centimetre by 1.5 centimetre (one inch by five-eighths of an inch) volume, in Yugoslavia whose owner claimed it as the world's tiniest last week.

"I used to go swimming with the locket round my neck," Tarsissi said this week. "Luckily the Quran was not damaged and I wonder if it might be valuable."

GNA marks 10th anniversary

MANAMA, April 1, (Kuna): The Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency today commemorated its 10th anniversary registering a decade of a responsible role in monitoring and following Gulf, Arab, and world main events.

In a report issued by the agency on the occasion, GNA said the main purpose of its establishment was to continue the concern of the Gulf news in particular and Arab news in general.

The agency, established on April 1st, 1978, following a decade of work in cooperation with sister Gulf news agencies, took its natural position as a specialist and mouthpiece of the Gulf states.

GNA with great efforts by its staff, received encouragement from subscribers who never hesitated to call and give advice and suggestions, the report said.

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Thought for today

Never trust a man who speaks well of everybody — John Churton Collins, English literary critic (1848-1908).

OPINION

The correct path of children of stones

WHAT do the United States and Israel expect from the pretext that the PLO does not represent the Palestinian people? With whom do they really want to negotiate and reach agreements?

All the Palestinians inside Palestine, including those who met Shultz and others, stressed that the PLO was their sole legitimate representative.

So the question remains: What do the US and Israel actually want?

From the events on Land Day (Wednesday), Israel must have realised that the Palestinian youths and politicians are not the same as the Palestinians of 1952, 1956 or 1967.

These new Palestinians have been greatly affected by events and know how to deal with the world.

Every day large numbers of Palestinians are injured or become martyrs.

Although they can easily get arms to use against the Israeli soldiers, the Palestinians choose to use stones, the same weapon the Jews had used to gain world sympathy when they expelled the Palestinians from their lands.

The youths of the Palestinian uprising managed to obtain the bombs and explosives that blew up the King David Hotel in 1947 and killed scores of British soldiers.

These Palestinian revolutionaries can easily kill many Israeli soldiers every day, but the new Palestinian policy, influenced by experience, does not call for acts such as the explosions at Vienna airport or the assassination of the Israeli ambassador in London. These methods are not wanted any more, the only method now is the throwing of stones at the Israeli occupants.

This is the correct way of demanding their legal rights. It is the proper way for demanding peace and living in harmony by discarding war and fighting.

This is also the demand of the PLO itself, which is recognised by a majority of countries as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The PLO demands are logical; they do not want to throw Israel into the sea, but want to negotiate through an international peace conference.

The uprising is continuing and increasing day by day.

This time Sharon will commit a grave mistake if he thinks he is in south Lebanon. For four continuous months Sharon could not do anything, and conceded recently that he was being defeated by the "children of stones".

The dreams of Israeli Prime Minister Shamir will certainly lead him to the fate faced by the first Zionist leaders in Germany and other European countries; they became too greedy and paid a heavy price.

At present Israel is the side wasting the peace opportunities.

Wednesday was Land Day, the day of the Palestinian people. The Authority and Control Day will be held after a week, followed by Martyrs Day and many others.

The uprising will continue and Palestinian stones will fill the streets of that blessed land.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Shultz' Mideast peace efforts

Arab-Americans have no high hopes

By Roberta Schur

NEW YORK: On the wall of a Brooklyn grocery store is a picture of a dove drawn in the black, green, red, and white of the Palestinian flag. "Palestine Lives," the caption says. Underneath someone has written "Immortal".

This is a neighbourhood where the nightly newscasts showing violence in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip strike a responsive chord. Many of the viewers are Palestinians who were born in the Israeli-occupied territories and have their own stories to tell.

There is the agony of the Jerusalem-born owner of a grocery store. "Already four people in my family are in jail," he says. He does not know what they are charged with. "You can go to jail for looking at a soldier," he says.

Another store owner tells of his wife's humiliation. On a recent visit to see relatives on the West Bank, she was strip-searched by Israeli officials, even though she was travelling on an American passport. "She had to go with the Palestinians and be naked. They took her shoes," he complains. "Why don't they get out," he yells at a reporter.

Then, there is a similar lament from a customer in the store. He criticises Israel for welcoming Jews from all over as citizens without extending the same hospitality to Arabs. "I was born there and I can't stay two weeks," he says.

Mubammad Silwadi agrees. A

Palestinian who wants to move back to his birthplace, he complains that "Jews from Ethiopia get more rights in my country than I do. My country is Palestine," he stresses, "not Israel." Recently, Silwadi returned for a month when his mother died, but he says he was refused permission to stay.

Because of such personal travails, the Arab-American community here does not have high hopes for Secretary of State George Shultz's efforts toward settling the unrest in Israel's occupied territories.

He has arrived in Italy ahead of his second Middle East trip to push the US peace plan.

This past weekend, in the first gathering of Palestinian-Americans since the current uprising began, 1,500 Arab-American met in national convention. The uprising, in which at least 85 Palestinians have died, was a prime topic of discussion, and on Sunday conveners demonstrated outside the White House.

But most of the estimated 150,000 to 200,000 Palestinians living in the United States in such cities as New York, Chicago, Detroit, and San Francisco are enduring the turmoil quietly.

Nabil Abraham, a second-generation Palestinian-American and author of "Arabs in the New World," says the Palestinian population is less vocal than the American Jewish population, for a number of reasons. "Immigrants are notoriously scared," he says. They may not be comfortable with the lan-



George Shultz

guage or they may feel unsure of their status. In some cases, the Palestinians here are not American citizens and do not want to compromise their chances for citizenship. Furthermore, he says, "Palestinians are primitive in their organization."

Finally, Arab-Americans often wish to avoid the insecurity and harassment they expect will come of drawing attention to their heritage. Palestinian leaders complain that as soon as they form an organization, it attracts the attention of the FBI.

A recent bus hijacking in which three Israeli civilians and the three Palestinian attackers were killed is a reminder to the Arabs of the tenuous nature of public opinion. Faris Bouhafa, an ADC spokesman, says the hijacking might serve to shift public opinion away at precisely the time when Palestinians were gaining sympathy.

"As much as I personally

regret anybody getting killed," says Bouhafa, "you have to balance (the deaths of the three Israelis) with the Palestinians who have all been killed in the last few months." He notes that when Israeli soldiers kill Palestinians, "it's not called a terrorist act." Bouhafa is quick to defend Palestinian actions, expressing concern for their public image. Yet readers' letters in all major newspapers and advertisements placed by American Jewish groups indicate a swing toward the Palestinian side of the conflict.

Even so, the Arab-American shopkeepers along Atlantic Avenue in downtown Brooklyn are cautious. "Call me Jack," one suggests. "Say my name is Z," another says. They fear that publication of their names may endanger their families living in the occupied territories.

"Nobody in the Israeli government wants peace," complains the owner of a store crowded with Arabic videotapes, Middle Eastern groceries, and Palestinian flags. A Palestinian who has been in the US for 20 years, he says if peace comes, the Israeli government will no longer enjoy the substantial funding it now receives from the US.

But Sam Moustapha, a Syrian who works in his family's Brooklyn grocery store, is more optimistic about Shultz's shuttle diplomacy. "Any effort is welcome to stop the bloodshed," he says. "The uprising is the only answer right now."

Standing behind a cash regi-

ster with the letters PLO scrawled across it, a store owner cites the Dec 3 closing of the Palestine Information Office in Washington as evidence of the US government's anti-Palestinian position.

"Israel has too much influence in this country," says a Jerusalem-born Brooklyn store owner. The conflict between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, he says, is to create the impression that Israel is a democracy with open dispute among leaders. "They're very shrewd," he says.

While he dislikes the Israeli government, the shopkeeper also seems dissatisfied with Yasser Arafat's role as leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. "I wouldn't let him run my store," he says. But he acknowledges that Arafat has become a rallying symbol for the PLO.

He thinks Shultz is mistaken in looking to Egypt or Jordan as partners in negotiations. "It's not in their hands," he says.

Negotiate
Bouhafa, the ADC spokesman, agrees, saying the United States "continues to mirror Israeli policy" by looking for "surrogates" instead of dealing directly with the PLO. He says the conditions required before the US can serve as a legitimate middleman are "the recognition of the Palestinian right to self-determination, the acceptance of the establishment of a Palestinian state, and the willingness to negotiate with the PLO."

"When the US decided it was time that we get out of Vietnam, we sat down and talked to the Viet Cong," says Isa Hassan, a Michigan pharmacist who has been in the US since 1962. He says the current Israeli situation is a parallel one in which Israel must negotiate with the PLO.

Hassan is active in an organization of Palestinians who trace their origin to the predominantly Christian town of Ramallah in the West Bank. The group, formed in 1952, began as a social organization, Hassan says. But since the 1967 occupation of the West Bank, there has been greater emphasis on educating the youth about their ethnic heritage.

Hassan speaks with pride of the time four years ago when he travelled to Tunis to meet Arafat. He maintains that the leaders of the movement are not involved in an Arab-vs-Jew conflict, but instead in a clash between Arabs and Zionists. "We are not asking for all of Israel," he says. "We are not trying to throw the Jews into the sea."

But it is rocky ground for such moderate views. One reminder is Abdullah bin Abdul Samad who says the end is coming for the Jews. A Muslim who divides the world into believers and non-believers, he says "The Muslims will fight the Jews." He believes both sides would continue to fight if a compromise were arranged, explaining, "There is no solution."

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

A disruptive force in British politics

Benn launches leadership bid

By Peter Gregson

LONDON, (Reuters): Tony Benn, the radical prophet of the Labour Party's left wing, bears a powerful reputation as a disruptive force in British politics.

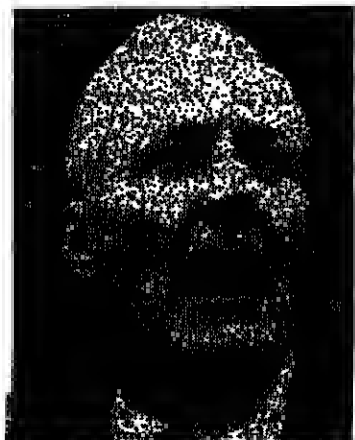
But a bid to head the official parliamentary opposition, launched this month only days before his 63rd birthday, was extreme even in the annals of his chequered career.

With the backing of only a minority faction of the parliamentary Labour Party, he announced, he was challenging Neil Kinnock for the leadership. During a political career spanning nearly 40 years, his commitment to red-blooded socialism has never been in doubt. He once proudly declared: "I grow more left as I grow older."

In this battle, even his supporters give him little chance of winning. His opponents predict a crushing defeat by a margin likely to be as great as 4-1 when votes are counted at the annual party conference at Blackpool in October.

His challenge, with fellow veteran left-winger Eric Heffer running against deputy leader Roy Hattersley, sent shockwaves through a party trying to regroup after a crushing third general election defeat by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservatives.

Kinnock, 46, dismissed it as a pointless distraction. Key aides expressed stronger anger privately that six months of inter-



Tony Benn

nal feuding would waste energy better spent building a platform to end the years in opposition.

The challenge has split even the "Campaign" group of 48 left-wing members of parliament headed by Benn, and revived memories of a bitter and protracted 1981 battle when he ran against Denis Healey for deputy leader and lost only narrowly.

A campaign member who asked not to be named said: "Anybody running against Neil at this stage is going to smash their heads on a brick wall they'd stand no chance."

Several others called the contest unnecessary and harmful. "It's a desperate fling by an old man in a hurry against a younger man who has time on his side," one commented.

Benn disagrees that his challenge is divisive. "I'm very keen that there should be a lot of goodwill and not conflict," he said.

Mud-slinging
He expressed no desire to be drawn into mud-slinging. "It will be below key. I have no desire to hot it up," he said, adding that he wanted to offer Labour Party members a different course to Kinnock's "soft left" revisionism.

Benn wants to stop Labour's drift away from its traditional

commitment to trade unions and state ownership of industry, a course steered by Kinnock during his four years as leader in a bid to broaden the party's electoral appeal.

The main point of Benn's campaign is not necessarily to win. "I have always taken the view that democracy has a very important educational role," he said after announcing his challenge. "A discussion about a choice on central problems facing our people is itself an enormous gain."

The Benn-Heffer campaign, quickly dubbed the "nightmare ticket" by opponents, was launched only hours after Kinnock's national executive — to which neither belong — adopted a new policy document written by Kinnock and Hattersley.

The left denounced the document as vague and a watering down of Labour's most sacred principle, the commitment to "common ownership" of the means of "production, distribution and exchange" printed on the back of every party membership card.

Paper
A month earlier, the campaign group had published an "aims and objectives" paper, backing nuclear disarmament, British withdrawal from the Nato alliance, the abolition of the House of Lords and the return of major industries to state control. Benn disavows personal ambition, using sweeping historical examples to state: "It's the ideas that I represent." "If you want to turn the QE2 round, you don't change the captain."

But he makes no secret of his dislike for what he regards as Kinnock's authoritarian and intolerant leadership and over the years has assiduously sought political power.

He renounced a peerage to return to the House of Commons in 1963 after being disbarred upon inheriting the title and went on to be a cabinet minister in the 1960s and 1970s.



Suspicious after months of war

North Ugandan civilians scared

By Jonathan Wright

PATIKO, Uganda, (Reuters): Wokorach Wokorach and his neighbours in the north Ugandan trading centre of Patiko are used to running.

With at least five separate armed groups on the loose over the past 18 months — gangs of common thieves, government troops, two rebel movements and bands of cattle rustlers from the east — this is hardly surprising.

"When they see people coming, the local people think it could be anything... we run up to 15 miles into the bush, even 30 miles," Wokorach told reporters whose civilian vehicle, the first to reach Patiko since August 1986, sent men, women and children scattering from their homes.

Accessible
The district capital Gulu is only 15 miles (25 kms) south of the village, site of a fort built by Sir Samuel Baker's Egyptian government expeditionary force in 1872.

But, for Wokorach and the few remaining inhabitants, Gulu might as well be on the other side of the world.

"It's been almost two years since I went to town. The trouble is that if you go to town, the rebels think you have some link with the NRA (National Resistance Army) and they cut you up with machetes," he explained.

The tourist brochures from the 1960s and early 1970s, when

tourists still visited the fort, optimistically claim it is accessible by an all-weather road from Gulu.

Since the troubles began, the bush has encroached on the roadway, in places leaving only a narrow path in the centre.

The courthouse is a pen for goats, the sub-county chief has abandoned his post and all the shops have been closed and empty since soon after the NRA arrived in pursuit of soldiers in the Uganda National Liberation Army, the government Army until the NRA captured Kampala in January 1986.

The Liberation Army soldiers, mostly from the local Acholi tribe, regrouped to form the rebel Uganda People's Democratic Army (UPDA) and in late 1986 a separate, religiously inspired, rebel group sprang up under priestess Alice Lakwena.

The cattle rustlers are usually described as Karamojong from the far northeast of Uganda, but no one has explained how they can operate 120 miles (200 kms) from home and many residents say some have really been NRA men in disguise.

Raids
The raids and the fighting between these rival groups have brought normal life to a standstill throughout rural north Uganda, forcing the people to fall back on subsistence farming or migrate to the towns as refugees.

"Almost all families have been affected. The schools have been

closed, they have lost almost all their animals and business has been bad because no one can move," said Vincent Olanya, the principal of a teacher training college in Gulu.

One of the worst effects of the insecurity has been the reprisals against civilians suspected of sympathies with one or another of the contending forces.

Ibiri na Ayaa, a peasant woman in the village of Bungatira, said UPDA soldiers burned down one of her huts because they learnt that one of her sons had joined the NRA.

In a recent incident, a woman paid NRA soldiers to kill her neighbour, a UPDA officer, on the edge of Gulu because she had a land dispute with the officer's family, NRA officers said.

The woman and the NRA soldiers are under arrest and will be punished, the officers added.

Grievance
A serious local grievance is that the NRA, mostly strangers from the south and west of Uganda, took malicious informers at their word in the early days of the conflict.

"The informers would say, 'this man is a bad man.' The NRA would go, loot his house and kill his family... but everyone has been a criminal in one way or another," a local elder said.

The insecurity forced Italian missionaries to abandon 16 outposts, including several with hospitals or clinics, in February 1987. "In most cases the situation became intolerable, between

thieves and violence," said Roman Catholic priest John Taneburgo.

He himself decided to move out of his seminary at Alokotum, only six miles (10 kms) west of Gulu, in February this year after a man fired at him through a half-open door.

"It was at heart level but I stepped aside just in time. I couldn't see who it was, he was wearing a greatcoat," he said.

Gulu has been in government hands throughout the fighting, except for a few hours in late 1986, but municipal services hardly exist. Not a single telephone is working and there is no electricity or piped water.

Looted
Unidentified gunmen burnt down the cotton gin, one of the town's major enterprises. The tobacco warehouse, looted of everything of value, has become a reception centre for rebels who take advantage of a government amnesty.

The light at the end of the tunnel is the tentative peace agreement reached last week between the NRA and the UPDA, under which the UPDA will stop fighting, come out of the bush and start detailed talks on joining the government Army.

"We consider it an important breakthrough. The UPDA is the main group and if they come in (from the bush), we will have gone a long way towards solving our problem," said Olanya, who acted as chairman in the peace negotiations.

Nicaragua-Contra agreement

A defeat for Reagan

By George Gedda

WASHINGTON, (AP): The ceasefire agreement signed this past week between Nicaragua and the Contra rebels may represent the most significant turning point for that country since the United States first began backing the insurgents in 1981.

Barring unexpected developments, the agreement could bring the war to an end and leave the ruling Sandinistas with a firm grip on power. The Sandinistas have ruled Nicaragua since their 1979 revolution.

President Ronald Reagan expended considerable political capital over the years trying to convince his countrymen that Sandinista power, left unchecked, would mean a Soviet beachhead in Central America and grave national security risks for the United States.

But Reagan was unable to muster consistent majority support for his policy. Too many legislators felt that the human costs of sustaining the war too high when compared with the benefits Reagan saw in trying to overthrow the Sandinistas.

The price paid by Nicaraguans over the past seven years has been obvious. The war has claimed more than 40,000 lives and left the economy in a shambles.

Support
The policy never had much enthusiastic support beyond the conservative wing of Reagan's Republican Party. In Latin America, it was difficult to find any president willing to express support for Contra aid, even in those Central American countries which Reagan said would be most affected by the collapse of the rebels.

every few months. During the height of the Vietnam war, the United States committed thousands of troops and spent that much every few days.

Now, it appears there is little the United States can do to influence events in Nicaragua. The administration has used extensive diplomatic and economic pressures to force the Sandinistas' hand with minimal results and now it has been deprived of what Reagan and the Contras believe is their most effective lever — military pressure. The best the Contras can hope for now is a humanitarian aid package that Congress consider next week.

Reconciliation
Given its past statements, the White House may try to take advantage of the new mood of reconciliation in Nicaragua and explore how to achieve a more normal relationship with the Sandinistas. There have been no serious talks between the two governments in more than three years.

There are several theoretical scenarios under which what was done last week could be undone, and the war resumed. Under White House prodding, Congress could decide to commit itself next week to an early vote on additional Contra military aid if the peace process breaks down and Reagan makes an aid request.

But it appears a majority in Congress, worn down by the Contra aid issue, does not want to give the President that authority.

Surrender
The most likely outcome is a Contra surrender to terms set forth by the Sandinistas during talks due to start April 6 on a permanent truce.

After a year in which the Contras had emerged as an effective fighting force, dispatching thousands of troops into Nicaragua from sanctuaries in Honduras, 1988 has marked a steady downward spiral.



A scene from the dance-drama.

The story of Bangladesh's independence

THE story of Bangladesh's struggle — Ithas Katho Kao, a dance-drama depicting the various stages of revolution leading to the independence of Bangladesh, was the highlight of a cultural programme presented by the Bangladesh Association on Thursday night at the Sharq Cooperative Society Hall. The programme was held to mark the Independence and National Day of Bangladesh.

A young Bangladeshi girl, Khadija Akhtar, presented a dance recital.

Khadija performing at the show. (Photos by Javed Basra)

Enchanting Malaysian cultural show



FORTY dancers and musicians presented a colourful glimpse of Malaysian culture at a special show held in the SAS Hotel's The Tent on Thursday night. Folk dances depicting various parts of Malaysia formed the theme of the three-hour show, followed by dinner. The high spot of the evening was a 90-minute popular cultural show by Malaysia's best known singer, Sharifah Aini. Picture shows a dance number.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World News via Satellite
- 3.30 Tan Tan: Waheed's Secret Cartoons
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.05 Magazine D'Actualite
- 4.25 Wa Ma'tasamah: ep. 3: starring Siba Salcm, Sami Kaf-tan...
- 5.45 Open University
- 6.50 News Summary
- 6.55 Noor Al Islam: "Li Jannab fi Madinat Nablus." Guests are Sheikh Hamed Sulaiman Al Bait-awi, Dr. Abdurrahman Radi Al Han-bali.
- 7.25 Nazrat Al Alam: cultural film
- 7.40 Security and Citizens: presented by Nasser Radhan.
- 8.15 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 10.00 Layali Al Hilmiya:

Arabic serial, starring Yahya Fakhrani, Safiya Al Omari, Hassan Yusuf, Firdous Abdul Hamid, Huda Sultao...

10.50 Dafatar Al Ayam: a well-known Arab writer Yusuf Idrees talks about his writing and literature in the Arab world.

11.45 News Summary

11.50 World News via Satellite

12.25 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran

6.10 Thundercats: cartoon serial for young viewers.

6.30 Great Expectations: Part One.

7.00 Lorne Greene's New Wilderness: a visit to the forests in East Africa.

7.30 "Mother and Child Reunion." Kate's mother, who

is visiting the family, has a surprise meeting with Alf.

8.00 News in English

8.40 The Blue Knight: Pilot episode. A policeman is killed and his friend, Morgan, vows to take revenge.

9.30 The Spirit of Adventure: "Mount Everest". A group of American mountaineers go on an expedition to the Himalayas.

10.30 Made-for-TV Movie: Iodepedoece. Starring: The story of Sam Hutch who tries to rid his city of criminals and gangsters, despite personal tragedy.

12.00 News in Brief/ Magazine D'Actualite/ Closedown.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

This week on KTV 2

SUNDAY

- 4.15 Holy Quran
- 4.35 Football: Al Kazema vs Al Ittefaq (Saudi Arabia).
- 6.30 Danger Bay: "Time Out." Dr. Roberts has plans to leave for Kenya.
- 7.00 Understanding Islam: a weekly programme on Islamic thought and philosophy.
- 7.30 The Wacky World of Sports: a light-hearted look at sporting events.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 The Flying Doctors: "Will to Survive." A lady doctor who comes to town faces opposition before she is accepted by a small town community in Australia.
- 9.30 Twilight Zone: "A Day in the Beaumont." A scientist sees UFOs ... and investigates the mystery.
- 10.00 Together We Stand: a new serial.
- 10.30 Best-Seller: "Hoover vs the Kennedy's". Part One. This series is based on the conflict between FBI chief Hoover and the Kennedy family.
- 12.00 News in Brief/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

MONDAY

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Wildlife: cartoon serial
- 6.30 The Animal Express
- 7.00 Roving Report: weekly programme on current world events.
- 7.30 Don't Wait Up: Comedy. Dr. Toby is homesick and decides to make-up with his wife and visits her at midnight.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 Murder She Wrote: "The Days Dwindle Down." Jessica Fletcher is asked to re-examine a crime committed 30 years ago.
- 9.30 National Geographic: "The Ballad of the Irish Horse." A look at horse breeding in Ireland.
- 10.30 Best-Seller: "A Year in the Life." The Gardner family prepares for Thanksgiving.
- 12.00 News in Brief/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

TUESDAY

- 6.00 Holy Quran

This week on KTV 2

- 6.10 Pole Positions: new cartoon serial.
- 6.30 Punky Brewster: Punky finds out that her new neighbour has kidnapped his daughter.
- 7.00 Beyond 2000: a look at latest advances in science and technology. Tonight, a look at modern educational technology, new building designs, a hotel run by computers and space studies at a centre in Japan.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 You and the Law: a local programme.
- 8.50 Leg Work: "Mystery Woman." a new series about a female private eye and her adventures.
- 9.30 Married with Children: "Nightmare on Al's Street." Marcy is cheated by two women.
- 10.00 Omni: The New Frontier: hosted by Peter Ustinov. A look at mineral wealth and a tree in the Amazon forest which stores oil.
- 10.30 Made-for-TV Movie: "Kate's Secret." Starring: Meredith Baxter, Ben Masters. The story of a woman who binges after suffering from shock.
- 12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

This week on KTV 2

- 9.30 Wildlife on One: "The Case of the Vanishing Squirrel". A British researcher studies a species of red squirrels.
- 10.00 Sledge Hammer: "State of Sledge."
- 10.30 Falcon Crest: The Changings and the Gobelins are cut off from the village due to a storm. And a murder takes place.
- 12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

This week on KTV 2

- THURSDAY**
- 2.30 Holy Quran
- 2.40 Cartoons
- 3.10 Sports Studio: highlights of football, basketball and other sports.
- 6.10 Centurions: "Counter Clock Crisis." Cartoons.
- 6.30 The Mickey Mouse Club: Cartoons.
- 7.00 Rags to Riches: "Wilderness Blues." Foley plans a holiday in the forest.
- 8.00 News in English
- 9.10 Spenser for Hire: "One for My Daughter."
- 10.00 The Bill Cosby Show: "Rudy Spends the Night." Cliff plans a quiet night with his son. But he is in for a big surprise.

This week on KTV 2

- WEDNESDAY**
- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 The Adventures of Gumbel Bears: cartoons
- 6.30 The Micro at Work: this episode examines the use of computers in the printing and automobile industries.
- 7.00 Fairy Tale Theatre: "Goldilocks and the Three Bears." The fab of a little girl who is lost in the woods and takes shelter in the home of bears.
- 7.30 Growing Pains: "Jason's Rib." The husband and wife differ over the basics of bringing up children.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 J.J. Starbuck: "Gold from Rainbow." Starbuck's car breaks down near a village, where he

This week on KTV 2

- FRIDAY**
- 2.30 Holy Quran
- 2.40 Sports Studio: highlights of local and world sports.
- 6.10 Transformers: cartoons
- 6.30 Out of this World: "Nightmare." The story of a young girl who has nightmares...
- 7.30 Qualifiers for Asian Cup: Football Kuwait vs Japan. Live transmission from Kuala Lumpur.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Football: continued...
- 9.45 The Beauty and the Beast: part two tells the story of the beauty helping a group of orphans ill-treated by the management of an orphanage.
- 10.30 Wiseguy: "The Prodigal Son," featuring Keo Wahl. Vinnie's girl friend is attacked...
- 11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

This week on KTV 2

- 10.30 Late Night Movie: "The Streets of Hong Kong" Starring: Gary Collins, Nancy Kwan. The story of an American boy who was raised by a Chinese family.
- 12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

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WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery

Kuwait's formative artists are showing their paintings at the 20th annual exhibition at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery, near Fatima Mosque. The exhibition is open daily, except Friday, from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm, until April 7.

Free Atelier

An exhibition of paintings by Samiya Ahmad Sayyed Omar is open daily, except Friday, from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm at the Free Atelier Gallery, Arabian Gulf Street, near Al-Hadi Hospital. It runs until April 10.

Sultan Gallery

An exhibition of oil paintings by Pakistani artist Yasmeen Bhamia is open daily, except Friday, from 9 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm at the gallery, Al Soor St.

Exhibition continues until mid-April.

THEATRE

Stepping Out

Kuwait Players present the comedy "Stepping Out", directed by Ken Winstow with choreography by Doona Smith, who also plays the lead, from April 10 to 14 at the Crystal Ballroom, Regency Palace Hotel. First night is gala night — dress black tie or lounge suit. Tickets — KD 5 each (including buffet on gala night and snacks on other nights). For reservations ring 5331269; 5745838; 5383149.

MUSIC

Sargam Kay Sitaray

Sargam Kay Sitaray, a musical nite, will be held on April 7 at the Cinema Gharnata. Tel: 5723573; 5759283.

Upasana

Upasana presents a musical nite — Ghanamanjari, featuring South Indian film songs, on April 7, 7.30 pm.

Geethanjali — a selection of Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam songs — will be presented by the same group, 6.30 pm, on April 8.

Both programmes will be held at the Indian Arts Circle auditorium, Funatees. For reservations phone 5643643; 3987409.

SOCIAL

Kuwait Welsh Society

The Society will hold "Nosen Lawen" (social evening), 8 pm, April 7. For details phone 3912384; 4874548.

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait
- Al Sharkiya Pharmacy
- Hilal St.
- Ibo Hayan Pharmacy
- Mubarak Al Kabir St.
- Hawalli and Nagra
- Al Najah Pharmacy
- Hawalli

Kuwait Natural History Group

A meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 7.30 pm in the Gulf English School, Salwa. An illustrated talk on "Little Beasts of Kuwait" will be given by Dr David Clayton. For details phone Eric Shaw — 3718417.

German-Speaking Cultural Association

Due to unforeseen circumstances the regular coffee morning at the Hilton Hotel scheduled for April 3 has been postponed to April 13, 10 am, in the Old Failaka Room. All German-speaking women are welcome.

Book Show

An exhibition of English Language Teaching Books will be held from April 2 to 4 at the British Council, Mansouriyah. The books will be open from 12.30 pm and 5 to 8 pm. The library will be closed on Saturday evening, April 2, for the opening of the show.

Canadian Women's League

There will be a meeting of the Canadian Women's League on Saturday, April 2, from 4 to 6 pm. For details phone 3718678; or 3727689 ext. 237.

Seminar on Cinema

A seminar on "Cinema and its Role in the Media" scheduled for April 4 has been postponed to April 14 at 7 pm at the Graduates Society. The seminar has been jointly organised by the Cine Club, the Kuwaiti Women's Cultural Society and the Graduates Society. Farouk Abdul Aziz, and Dr Ghanem Al Najjar will participate in the seminar.

Ladies Tea Party

International Ladies Tea Party at Plaza Hotel on April 6, 5 pm. Highlight of the evening will be a children's fashion show. Tel: 5386297; 5317390.

SPORTS

Inter-school Knockout '88

Inter-school Knockout '88 Grand Finale takes place on Wednesday on April 13. The event features student and teacher teams from Kuwait's schools in a series of exciting games. Barbecue dinner and beverages will be served by the poolside. Valuable prizes. For details contact the hotel.

Salcedo United Whist Drive

Salcedo United will hold a Whist Drive-cum-Tea Party for its members and guests on Friday, April 8, 3.30 pm at Ramada Al Salam Hotel. For details contact D'Costa — 2439000 ext. 2537 and Agnello — 2460983.

Bowling Tournament

The Philippine Bowlers Association in Kuwait (PBAK) will hold their handicap bowling tournament from 9 am on April 8 at Club 300. The tournament is open to all men and women. Deadline for submitting entries is April 6. Fee: KD. 4.500.

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- Opp. Cooperative Society.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
No Dead Heroes
Starring: Max Shapier, Tony Nero

Al Sahiya
Doing Time
Starring: Day Young

Al Hamra
Rajul Didh Al Kanoon (Arabic)
Starring: Mahmoud Yassen, Mirvat Ameen

Drive-In
Li'binaat
(Arabic)
Starring: Ahmad Bader, Bori, Ilham Shabin

Al Firdous
Anhoos (Hindi)
Starring: Sanjeev Kumar, Leena Chandravarkar

Fahabeh Open-Air
Lofer (Hindi)
Starring: Fahabeh

Libente Neethi (Malayalam)
Al Jahra
Tough Busters (Crime Wave)
Granada

North By North West
Salaibikat
Rajul Fi Uyoun Imraa (Arabic)
Al Jleeb

Irupatham Nootandu (Malayalam)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Jumpin' Jack Flash

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- Zuhr 11.51
- Asr 3.23 pm
- Maghreb 6.08
- Isha 7.25

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5.00 pm - 7.30 pm

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Two views on popular music

Does rock music rot the brain?

By George Walden

"THE Gloomy Guru" as one American newspaper called Professor Allan Bloom, author of the controversial and best-selling *The Closing of the American Mind* certainly seemed to me a serious man when I spent the afternoon with him recently at Chicago University. But he is also immensely lively and humorous.

Nobody has dissected the intellectual and emotional lives of American students — and especially their music — with such uncompromising severity.

He sees the rock phenomenon as stunting the aesthetic and moral potential of the young, and reacts with passionate dismay: "As long as they have the Walkman on their back, they cannot hear what the great tradition has to say, and when they take it off, they are deaf." Once, many of his students knew more classical music than he himself. Now it is a special taste — "like pre-Columbian archaeology."

These are not the rancid chattering of a middle-aged academic, or someone "out of touch" with the young. Bloom has spent most of his life amongst them. Nor is there any hint

In his controversial and best-selling book, *The Closing of the American Mind*, professor Allan Bloom sees the rock phenomenon as stunting the aesthetic and moral potential of the young, diminishing their imaginative powers and making it hard for them to develop mature tastes.

of the puritanical authoritarianism which leads the Soviet press to call rock "spiritual Aids."

He simply believes that prolonged exposure to the music is not just the passing phase that many parents and academics like to think, but something that permanently diminishes the imaginative powers of the young and makes it hard for them to develop more mature tastes.

In their films, plays or books they will go on craving, he believes, the three basic ingredients of rock: "Sex, hate and a smarmy, hypocritical version of brotherly love."

Young people, he says, know perfectly well that rock has the beat of sexual intercourse; this is why Ravel's "Bolero" is the one piece of classical music that

is commonly liked by them. He gives Mick Jagger — "a shrewd, middle-class boy who played the possessed lower-class demon and teenaged satyr till he was 40" — as an example of rock's influence on some of his students. Many who boasted of having no heroes had a secret passion to live his life.

Analogy
The analogy between rock and drugs, in his view, can be closer than many think. He has noticed that those of his students who have had a serious fling with narcotics and have cured themselves often find it hard to develop enthusiasms or great expectations of life: they have been spiritually neutered. To a lesser extent, the same can be true of rock.

Another illusion is the supposed camaraderie of the

music. In fact, as well as promoting desire rather than love, it physically kills conversation by noise — makes impossible the shared speech that Aristotle saw as the basis of friendship. Parents literally cannot get through to their children either, and so lose control over their moral education at a time when no one else is taking it seriously.

In America, reactions to his views can be as violent as the music itself. But sometimes, the response is surprisingly positive. "How did you find out about us?" one student had asked him. "Because I spend so much time talking to you," Bloom replied. "But we don't usually say what we mean," the student at once said naively, and for Bloom, touchingly.

The evening after I saw him, a Chicago writer took me to one of the most popular blues establishments on the black side of the city, just south of the University itself. It was not the quietly melancholy variety, but the sort that makes your ribs judder. Bloom was certainly right on one point: there was no question of conversation, still less of discussing what the singer meant when she sang: "If you don't like the blues there's a hole in your soul."



Mick Jagger: a shrewd, middle-class boy who played the possessed lower class demon and teenaged satyr till he was 40.

A rock fan takes issue with the professor's views

'Lavish with generalisation, exaggeration and plain sloppy thinking'

By Tim De Lisle

THE chapter on music in *The Closing of the American Mind* is passionately argued, elegantly written, and thoroughly wrong-headed. Professor Bloom is lavish with generalisation, exaggeration, misapprehension and plain sloppy thinking; he is correspondingly economical with evidence, with supporting arguments, with the truth.

He starts as he means to go on, with a hold assertion: "Though students do not have books, they most emphatically do have music." The second

half of this sentence is clearly right; the first half is equally clearly silly and wrong. And so it goes on. "Classical music is dead among the young," even though, by Bloom's own admission, the campuses are alive with the sound of orchestras, discussion groups and appreciation societies, as well as the rhythms of rock and roll.

"Rock music has one appeal only, a barbaric appeal, to sexual desire — not love, not eros, but sexual desire undeveloped and untutored." One can think of a few songs Bloom may have in mind here (he mentions none himself); one can think of many

more of which this is manifestly untrue. To take a couple of recent Grammy award-winners, is Paul Simon's "Graceland" all sex? Is U2's "Joshua Tree"?

The Professor preises on regardless. "Never was there an art form directed so exclusively to children." Curious, then, that it should be young adults who now make up the biggest sector of its market. It gets worse. "These are the three great lyrical themes: sex, hate and a smarmy, hypocritical version of brotherly love." In fact the dominant theme of pop lyrics, as you would think even



Bob Geldof: neither smarmy nor a hypocrite

the most blinkered education-alist must know, is romantic love. "Can't Buy Me Sex," "Slave to Sex," "I Just Called to

Say I Want To Have Sex With You": they don't have quite the same ring.

As for hate, well, there was a lot of it about in the punk heyday of 1976-77; precious little on 1980s best-sellers like Dire Straits' "Brothers in Arms" or Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA". And you can say what you like about Bob Geldof, but he is neither smarmy nor a hypocrite.

More generally, Bloom makes great play of the high volume at which rock is sometimes played, and of its alleged resemblance to drugs. The idea that conversation and

Aristotelian friendship are being killed by loud music is a laughable; most really loud rock is heard at concert halls, which are no more where you go to talk than cinemas or theatres.

The other charge is more serious, and certainly rock appears to have become the opium of some of the people. But it is just as certainly nothing like so pervasive as television, which Bloom dismisses in half a sentence as playing "a comparatively small role in the formation of young people's character and taste." Where has he been?

Aswad retains top spot on UK chart

LONDON, (AP): The three-man reggae group Aswad remained at the top of the British pop singles chart for a second straight week with their hit single Don't Turn Around.

Bros, which two weeks ago was 27th on the chart, zipped up to second place from seventh spot with Drop The Boy. Iron Maiden remained in third position with Can I Play With Madness.

Tiffany rose from 11th place to number 4 with Could've Been While A-Ha soared from 24th place to fifth with Stay On These Roads.

As well as Tiffany and A-Ha, two newcomers moved into the top 10: Simon Harris with Bas How Low Can You Go, to 9th from 19th, and Eighth Wonder with I'm Not Scared, to 10th from 20th.

This week's top 10 listings, as compiled by Melody Maker magazine, with last week's places in parentheses:

1. (1) Don't Turn Around — Aswad (Mango).
2. (7) Drop The Boy — Bros (CBS).
3. (3) Can I Play With Madness — Iron Maiden (EMI).
4. (11) Could've Been — Tiffany (MCA).
5. (24) Stay On These Roads — A-Ha (Warner Bros.).
6. (—) Heart — Pet Shop Boys (Parlophone).
8. (2) Crash — Primitives (RCA).
9. (19) Bass — How Low Can You Go — Simon Harris (FFRR).

10. (20) I'm Not Scared — Eighth Wonder (CBS).
And in New York, Michael Jackson stayed on for the second week in a row at the top of the pop singles record charts in the United States with his new hit Man In The Mirror.

Rick Astley's Never Gonna Give You Up held on to second place on the Cash Box magazine chart for the second straight week, and Billy Ocean vaulted into third position — up from sixth a week ago — with Get Outta My Dreams, Get Into My Car.

Last week's number three hit, George Michael's Father Figure, toppled to eighth place.

Love will find its way to you carried Reba McEntire to the number one spot on the Cash Box magazine Country-and-Western singles chart. George Strait's Famous Last Words Of A Fool was second, and Eddie Rabbitt's I Wanna Dance with You was third.

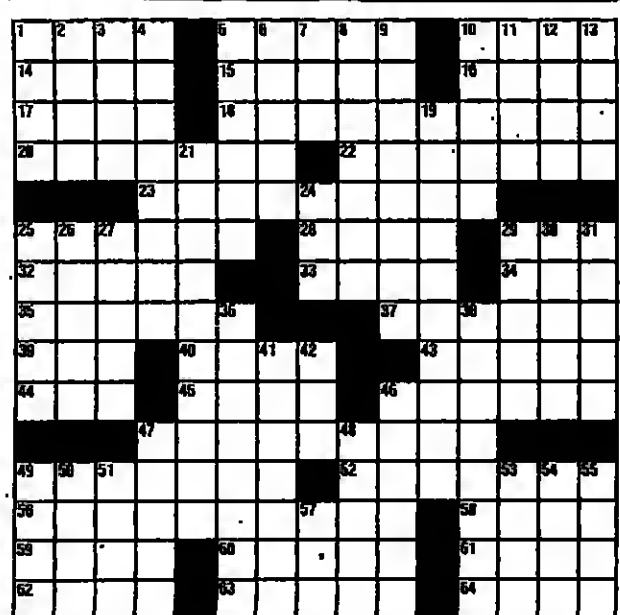
The ten top pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (1) Man In The Mirror — Michael Jackson (Epic).
2. (2) Never Gonna Give You Up — Rick Astley (RCA).
3. (6) Get Outta My Dreams, Get Into My Car — Billy Ocean (Jive-Arista).
4. (4) Endless Summer Nights — Richard Marx (EMI-Manhattan).
5. (5) Out Of The Blue — Debbie Gibson (Atlantic).
6. (8) I Want Her — Keith Sweat (Vintertainment-Elektra).
7. (10) Rocket 2U — The Jets (MCA).
8. (3) Father Figure — George Michael (Columbia).
9. (13) Devil Inside — Inxs (Atlantic).
10. (14) Where Do Broken Hearts Go — Whitney Houston (Arista).

The ten top Country-Western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (3) Love Will Find Its Way To You — Reba McEntire (MCA).
2. (7) Famous Last Words Of A Fool — George Strait (MCA).
3. (6) I Wanna Dance With You — Eddie Rabbitt (RCA).
4. (4) Touch And Go Crazy — Lee Greenwood (MCA).
5. (8) Strangers Again — Holly Dunn (MTM).
6. (11) Turn It Loose — The Judds (RCA).
7. (10) I'll Always Come Back — K.T. Oslin (RCA).
8. (14) Cry Cry Cry — Highway 101 (Warner Brothers).
9. (15) It's Such A Small World — Rodney Crowell and Rosanne Cash (Columbia).
10. (11) If Ole Hank Could Only See Us Now — Waylon Jennings (MCA).

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
1 Submerged
5 Embrace
10 Caen's neighbor
14 SE Asian
15 Of a seed scar
18 Galway Bay Islands
17 Part of YMCA
18 Musical revue of 1949
20 Historic region of Czechoslovakia
22 Bustle
23 Simultaneous occurrence
25 Dominant themes
28 Cargo wt.
29 Good times
32 Author Jong
33 Blood vessel: Comb. form
34 Part of EAP
35 Type of inland woodwork
37 Lining for a raincoat
39 Stout
40 Haphazard course: Abbr.
43 Brandish
44 Was in front
45 Feast, Hawaiian style
46 Wispy white cloud
47 Long-stemmed American Beauties?
49 — attention (heeded)
52 The Duchess of York, for one
56 Fats Waller hit of 1943
58 Palo —
59 Authentic
60 Sevilla province town
- DOWN
61 Arctic sight
62 — Well that ends well
63 — Without a Cause: 1945 film
64 Bugla call at sunset
1 Maka a — (try)
2 Indeed!
3 Ogden
4 Study of body motions
5 Jewelry items
6 Pale purple
7 Everyone
8 Rice flavoring
9 Lengthens
10 Apt name for a mariner
11 Gait between walk and canter
12 Bathes
13 Nonconformist
19 Musical comedy of 1923
21 Musical based on Shaw's "Pygmalion"
24 Abbr. in physics
25 Gold or silver
26 Fanon
27 Worn-out
29 Class or berth
30 French soldier
31 Transports
36 Flatterer
38 Passage for ventilation
41 Type of sugar
42 Hint. Abbr.
46 Pertaining to a belief: Var.
47 Bridge fees
48 Goodnight girl of song
49 Evening, in Roma
50 Asian weight
51 Type of test
53 A Fitzgerald
54 "Sleep like —"
55 Forest creatures
57 Fella

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

HERE ALOES SITE
ODES DALLY USER
WINTERKILL MESA
ETE TIED LAMEST
STAR DATE
SAMPAN OEBARKED
AVERS MALLI HEMI
BALL DORIC ODIN
LIEN INES BUGLE
ELEGIISTS MOSEYS
BATE FIRE
ANGOLA PESO RAE
HORA FALLEN ROCK
EMIR FLAIR BORE
MEND SANNOY TOES

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
THRUST AND PARRY

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 8 7 6 5
♥ A K Q
♦ J 7 6
♣ Q J 10
WEST
♠ A 3
♥ J 10 9 8 7
♦ 3
♣ 8 6 4 3 2
EAST
♠ 2
♥ 6 5 4 3
♦ 10 9 8 5 4 2
♣ A 9
SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10 9 4
♥ 2
♦ A K Q
♣ K 7 5

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass
5 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♣

Former world champion Eddie Kantar is not only one of the world's most prolific (and best) bridge writers, he is also one of the country's foremost teachers. He has now prepared 18 of his lesson series in the form of 16-page pamphlets. They cover both bidding and play, and include such subjects as Counting the Hand; Discarding; Placing the Opponents' Honors; Signalling at Suit Contracts; Common Errors

in Bidding, Play and Defense; and more. The lessons are available at \$2 each, plus 50 cents for postage and handling (\$35 for all 18 lessons) from: Eddie Kantar, P.O. Box 427, Venice, Calif. 90291-0427.

This hand is from Slam Bidding at Suit Contracts. South's hand clearly qualifies for a jump shift. After North raises spades, South has visions of a grand slam, but North's disappointing revelation of only one ace brings the auction to an abrupt halt at the five-level.

Since he has trump control, West tries for a ruff by leading his singleton diamond. South wins and, if he is unaware of the danger, he might try to sneak a trump lead through by leading the queen. However, West should not fall for that play. He should fly up with the ace and return a high club, denying interest in that suit. If East is hreathing, he wins the club and gives his partner a diamond ruff.

But South need not submit himself to that fate. After winning the diamond lead, he should cash dummy's high diamonds from hand. Now the two black aces are the only tricks the defense can get.

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"We were made for each other, Cybill!"

THE WIZARD OF ID.

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

Try to keep calm and collected in the face of provocation. The situation is better than it seems. You will be able to learn something to your advantage. Be less surly.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You should pay immediate attention to a personal matter. Nor should you leave until later something that were best done now. Do not take a game too seriously. Be cordial.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

The situation will change for the better and you will be able to take full advantage of it. You should try to show a little more goodwill. Do not do anything that might cause a stomach upset. Be sensible.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You should try to express yourself briefly, long-windedness is to be avoided. You will not feel at your best so concentrate on chores and essentials. You should have a little more faith in yourself. Be frugal.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

Make sure you do not do anything that would harm your health. You should show a little more patience and forbearance. The prospects are good but you will not be able to rely on luck alone. Be reliable.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You will be able to get a move on but should try not to rush matters. Avoid making promises that would be hard to keep. Do not neglect an essential repair. Be more methodical.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

The Moon's influence will help you to make up your mind. You will begin to understand something that has been puzzling you. Try to avoid getting into a tight corner: leave yourself with an alternative. Be reasonable.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You will be better able to deal with a practical matter. You will be surprised by the good results of one of your actions. Do not wait until the last minute. Be resilient.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will tend to get tired quickly and should try to have an early night. You will have to accommodate yourself to a few changes. You will get on better with those around you.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

Do not let some small disagreement grow into a major quarrel. Read what you have written again before despatching it. Do not impose yourself upon others. Be careful.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Today you will be in good form with a tendency to be too exuberant. Do what has to be done first and then relax. Show a little more commonsense and goodwill. Be resolute.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

Your emotional life will tend to be more calm than of late. Seek not to leave things half undone. Try to be a more affectionate lover, be resourceful.

New entries for the Guinness Book

Film folks break world records

By Firoze Rangoonwalla

"I MUST get into the Guinness," is the chant heard everywhere in filmland. For every other filmwala these days, the Guinness Book of World Records is the great goal and the zenith of achievement. Everyone is aiming to get his or her name included in the new edition, to be issued soon. And many of them say that they have at last succeeded in achieving the ultimate.

They may not have made much progress to their own profession. The industry may even regard some of them as freaks or hangers-on. But they will be there in the book, for the whole world to admire. After all, what is local success in the tinsel town of Bombay, compared to the international honour? Moreover, the Guinness entry itself will bring them notice and then the industry will give them their due share of work, wealth and fame.

Because of this, our film people have started working very hard. It was back-breaking business to break a world record, even if it sometimes got mixed with pleasure, as in the case of some lucky dogs, sorry lucky heroes. Moreover, the examples of Lata Mangeshkar, Dada Kondke, Prem Nazir inspired them, though even their achievements as recorded in the book have never been verified or documented. But that suited the film folks, who never believe in facts and proofs in any case. So their hopes of getting accepted are also fulfilled and they will soon take their place as champions of their trade and its tricks.

At the end of this month, news started trickling in from the film offices to this writer's office. Some came from rival camps too. But all conveyed the same message that so-and-so had made it to the book. As we have no way to check and counter-check, let the wish-horses be on paper, as they would love it to be. And they do not mind being recorded for any type of "achievement". So here goes:

Sharmila Tagore holds the world record for the longest successful marriage to a cricketer speaking a single word on screen.



Sharmila Tagore: holds the world record for the longest successful marriage to a cricketer

speaking a single word on screen.

Mithun Chakravarty's entry says that he is the first actor in the world to have erased Raj Kapoor's memory from the Soviet psyche and installed his own. And he has achieved this, not as a socialist or communist but as a "discoist". Our ever eccentric star Raj Kumar has also been listed for giving the maximum number of abuses to his co-stars and getting away with it.

Asha Bhonsale has at last fulfilled her dream of appearing in the Guinness Book of Records though a couple of steps below her already honoured sister Lata. The number of songs attributed to Asha are said to be "nearly the same" as those of Lata. Anyway, Lata's



Lata Mangeshkar: set a record-breaking example for others to emulate

35,000 songs were never actually verified.

Composer Bappi Lahiri holds the record as the "tune-smith," who has copied the maximum number of songs from his fellow brothers in the West.

Tinnu Anand becomes the winner for the biggest confidence trick ever in show business. He has sold the film "Shahenshah" for ten times its cost to buyers who later realised that the gold mine was not so deep after all. Ramanand Sagar has entered the world record book for stretching the Ramayana as no other epic writer could ever do, including Valmiki and Tulsi Das.

Mandakini stands out as the only actress in world cinema who has taken 50,000 gallons of water over her body, without an



Jackie Shroff: record number of romances within a year of marriage



Shatrughan Sinha: most-established villain

ouch. Sonam is the first heroine in showbiz to have signed fifty film without the audience having seen her.

Sharmila Tagore is the movie star with the longest successful marriage to a cricketer.

Vinod Khanna is the world's only actor who acts in six films per day. Govinda gets the plum as the world's husiest young actor, who does not find time to go to the loo more than twice a day.

Shatrughan Sinha is the most established villain who became the least established hero and then the most established good man.

Amrish Puri is the actor who has yelled and growled for the longest possible stretch of time.

Sunil Dutt is the world's first actor who has walked more on the roads than he has run on the screen. Sunjay Dutt is the only star who did not have an affair till one year after his marriage. Jackie Shroff is the only one who had twelve affairs within one year of marriage. Rekha is the world's only actress who considers herself "mentally" married to a famous actor.

Sri Devi is the only highest paid heroine who does not speak dialogue in her own voice. Rajnikant has broken the record of lighting cigarettes in one thousand different ways.

Arun Govil playing Lord Rama has kept the same expression for the longest period of time in the longest-running TV serial. Amjad Khan is credited to be the fastest to be the fattest screen dacoit anywhere in the world.



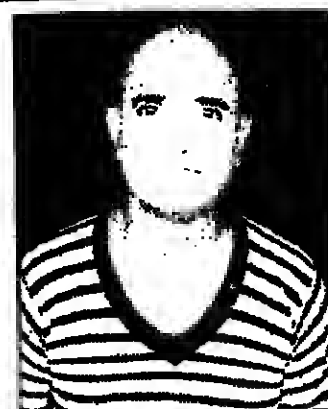
Sri Devi: the only highly paid star who has her dialogues dubbed in another voice

Prithviraj Kapoor's family tree has yielded the maximum number of flop actors and directors, more than any other world film family. Kiran Kumar is the only star-son who achieved stardom without the help of his father. Manoj Kumar is the only film maker in the world who has mixed patriotism with sex.

Manmouji is the only actor who has kept shaving his head to act bald in 200 films. Jagdish Raj has played a policeman in 300 films. Jagdeep has successfully shivered his way through 400 films. Jankidas has twitched his face and fingers in 500 films.

Encouraged by so many film people getting the Guinness entry, many others are busy finding and breaking other records for the next year. Some of them can't even spell Guinness and think it is Genius Book of Records.

Meanwhile, the above-stated entrants to the Book were congratulated and given a copy of the volume on April 1, 1988. And this has nothing to do with All Fool's Day, which certain quarters celebrated yesterday.



Manmouji: emulating Kojak is one way to get into the record books



Amala: starring role without a single word on screen



Sonam: fifty films without a release, must be a record somewhere

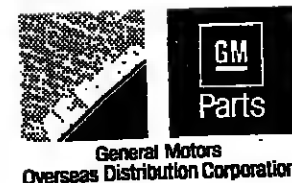
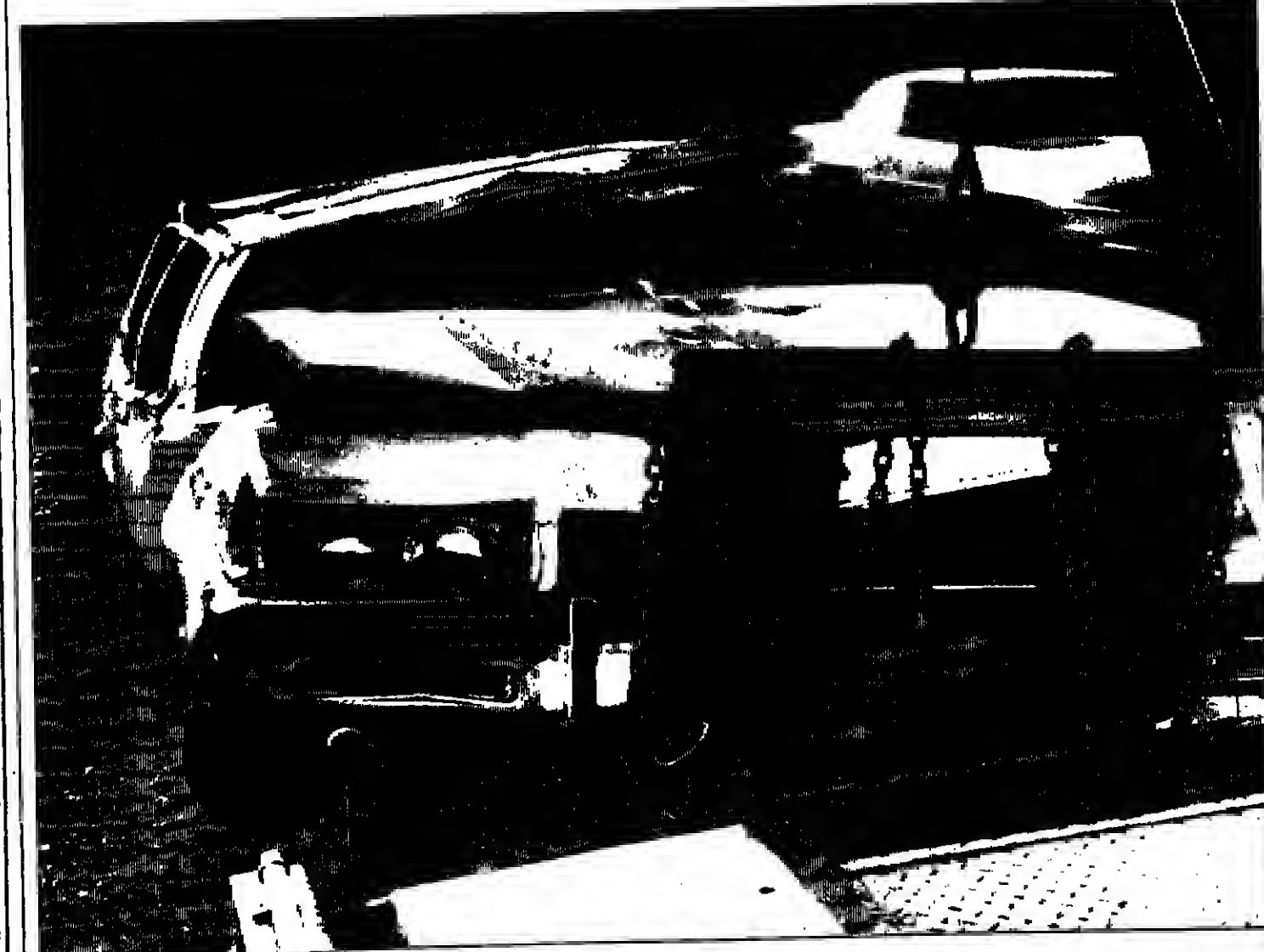


Raj Kumar: has got away with a maximum number of abuses



Mandakini: only actress to take 50,000 gallons of water on her body without an ouch!

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Behind the Screen

first film made in Haryanvi language called Chandrawali has done it. Villagers of remote areas who had never seen a movie in their life travelled to a far-away theatre to see the hit film. They accounted for 70 per cent of the village population.

Since Shahenshah did big business in advance of its release, Amitabh is losing interest in the small film Sach he was doing with Shabana. He is concentrating again on the big-budget block-busters, starting with Ganga Jamma Saraswati, where all concerned can talk in

crores. In Sach, it will be a matter of a few lakhs, plus the disadvantage of sharing credit with a talented heroine and bowing to the distributors to buy the film.

Mithun Chakravarty has decided to become a writer too, starting with Baaghi. If anyone wants a free lunch he has only to tell Mithun to narrate the script. The hero at once invites him and then describes every scene along with oral effects of background music. On top of that, Mithun also tells everyone to keep the script a secret, lest some other writers may copy

the ideas. But then why is he himself broadcasting it to so many people? Anyway, the regular film writers say that there is nothing to copy because Mithun himself has copied it from several other films.

Veteran composer Hemant Kumar who once gave hit tunes in Naagin and then got limited to Bengali films, has done a stunt by refusing the government-given title of Padma Shri. He said he deserved a bigger title and would not settle for anything less than Padma Bhushan, (as if it was some kind of a business deal). His refusal has not even come as a protest or for a cause. But it has become a political issue. West Bengal's leftist government has decided to bestow an honorary D. Litt degree on him.

Sunil Dutt: holds the record for long walks

Villain Shakti Kapoor may not have achieved a record for teasing and harassing the maximum number of women. But he surely tries it with as many as possible. However, he met his Waterloo with a comparatively new starlet Tina Ghai (famous for her attachment to Ashok Kumar). At a musical variety show far away from Bombay, Shakti tried his power on Tina who slapped him on the spot. Shame shame to Shakti for doing this during the international women's year celebration. And bravo bravo to the new Tina for keeping up the right spirit. Has wife Shivangi heard the sound of the slap?

Haryana is the province that lies in a crucial position near the troubled Punjab. So movement of people is restricted. But the

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tough sanctions sought on Toshiba

US Congress drops retaliation amendment from trade bill

WASHINGTON, April 1, (AP): Congressional negotiators have scrapped Rep. Richard Gephardt's controversial trade retaliation amendment and have agreed to seeking tough sanctions on Japan's Toshiba Corp. in a new trade bill.

The bill also calls for repeal of the windfall profits tax and a \$1-billion boost in US grain export subsidies.

Compromise

The compromise completed late last night would also require employers to give 60 days notice of plant closings and would increase government aid to those left jobless as a result of competition from imports.

But even as the bill moves ahead in Congress, concerns about a possible presidential veto are growing.

Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, chairman of the House-Senate Conference Committee that

produced the package, said there was bound to be some grumbling, but he was upbeat about the final product.

"We worked long and hard and I think evidence that it's a good product is that nobody's happy about it," said Rostenkowski, who worked out the package along with Sen. Lloyd Bentsen.

At the heart of the measure are streamlined procedures for imposing import restrictions to aid US industries hard hit by imports and retaliate against barriers that trading partners put in the way of American exports.

Final arrangement began to fall into place yesterday morning when one of 17 separate groups of conferees adopted the trade sanctions against Toshiba and a subsidiary for selling computerised machinery to the Soviets for the silencing of submarine propellers.

The measure would ban US government purchases of Toshiba equipment for three years. It would bar import of products of the Toshiba Machine Corp subsidiary for three years. In the future, such violations would be punishable by import bans of two to five years.

Japanese government leaders today condemned the measure, charging the United States with overstepping its boundaries by adding its own penalties to those already taken by Japan.

The government hinted it might bring the matter before the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade if the measure becomes law.

"The United States is seeking to unilaterally impose its own penalties in disregard of the independence of other countries," Trade Minister Hajime Tamura said in a statement to

reporters. "This is extremely regrettable."

Rostenkowski said he expected the legislation to pass because "we're going to need a trade policy in the next couple of years and I think this is as good as anything that's going to come across the president's desk."

The measure erased a provision for driving down unwarranted foreign trade surpluses that had been sponsored by former Democratic presidential hopeful Richard A. Gephardt.

Threatening

Veto threats from the White House hovered over the legislation, and some members of the House-Senate Conference Committee were dissatisfied with the bargain worked out between Bentsen and Rostenkowski.

Administration officials had been threatening a veto over provisions requiring employers

to provide workers with notice of plant closings and the Toshiba sanctions.

Yesterday afternoon, however, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater appeared to back off a bit, saying that the administration was not trying to signal a veto and still hoped to receive a trade bill that it could sign.

Rostenkowski told reporters before leaving on a congressional fact-finding trip to Turkey that he hoped to get sufficient members of the conference committee to sign the final product.

Farm lawmakers, meeting separately, said they were close to agreement on a provision that would put in place export subsidies of up to \$500 million in 1990 unless negotiators reach agreement by then on phasing out agricultural subsidies under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The so-called triggered marketing loan would benefit producers of wheat, feed grains, soybeans and other oilseed crops.

Farm lawmakers also agreed on boosting by \$1 billion the export enhancement programme, which furnishes grain companies and others with surplus government crops to induce them to ship American grain overseas.

Gephardt's plan would have required the US trade representative to roll back "excess and unwarranted" foreign trade surpluses by 10 per cent annually if negotiations failed to do the job.

In its place, Bentsen and Rostenkowski adopted a senate proposal that would require the trade representative to list foreign unfair trade practices and if necessary take action to force trading partners to end them.

Baker opposes Third World debt relief

WASHINGTON, April 1, (AP): Treasury Secretary James A. Baker III told Congress on Wednesday that he strongly disagrees with proposals to forgive some of the Third World's debt, now more than \$1 trillion.

"I believe this path leads both debtors and creditors off the cliff," he said.

"This approach would irreparably politicise the debt problem."

Distract

Forgiveness would distract both debtors and creditors from the need to make reforms, would encourage repudiation of debt, and shift the risk on bank loans to taxpayers, including US taxpayers, he added.

"I simply cannot endorse such schemes," he said.

He argued for a US contribution to increase the capital of the World Bank, the biggest single source of aid loans to Third World countries. He said pulling out of the World Bank or the Inter-American Development Bank, as some critics have suggested, would reduce US influence and make it more likely that they would act contrary to US interests.

But he said that President Ronald Reagan's administration would not ask Congress for money to bring the United States up to date in the year beginning Sept 30 on its arrears in payments to the World Bank. He said West Germany, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia had reduced their contributions because of the US shortfalls and he was sorry about that.

He promised that the Reagan administration, which will be out of office Jan 1, 1989, will ask that

the money be furnished in the 12 months following Oct 1 of that year.

Congressman David R. Obey told Secretary of State George P. Shultz earlier this month that the arrears should be paid before a new contribution is sought. He predicted the administration's request would meet trouble in Congress. Obey heads a key subcommittee in the House of Representatives on questions of international aid.

Baker said the administration would not seek new contributions to the Inter-American Development Bank until the borrowing countries, which now control lending, give the US government greater power over new loans.

The United States is also asking changes in the bank's management.

Baker was testifying before the subcommittee on foreign operations of the Senate appropriations committee.

One member, Senator Don Nickles, complained of the bank's internal spending. He said it had recently moved into one of the most expensive new buildings in Washington at a cost of \$225 million.

"We agree that's the kind of thing that has to be cleaned up," Baker said, but did not confirm Nickles' figures.

There was no immediate reply from the bank.

Baker clashed with Senator Daniel K. Inouye, chairman of the subcommittee, over plans to help other countries refinance as much as \$16 billion owed to the United States for weapons and other military aid, to relieve them of some of the interest burden.

Japan's strong economy driving huge trade surplus lower

TOKYO, April 1, (Reuters): The robustness of Japan's economy has been helping trim the country's huge trade imbalance and the surplus may be cut by more than \$10 billion in 1988, economists say.

"That level of reduction would be a healthy degree of adjustment," said David Pike, economist for the UBS Phillips and Drew international securities firm.

Japan's 1987 current-account surplus, its widest measure of trade, which includes both goods and services, was \$87 billion.

Pike specifically sees the current-account surplus for this year at a conservative \$75 billion. Japan announced today that its current-account surplus for the month of February fell to \$6.85 billion from \$7.63 billion a year earlier.

"This drop was encouraging as it continues to show the trade surplus is decreasing," said economist Soichiro Akahane of Bank of Tokyo. It is a good sign.

The government also reported that trade in goods alone fell to a surplus of \$7.44 billion in February from \$8.28 billion a year ago.

The strong Japanese economy is spurring a sharp rise in imports, while dissuading some manufacturers from shipping goods abroad, Akahane said.

A boom for the construction industry has tightened the domestic market for steel and other building materials while active manufacturing has squeezed supplies for plastics and other petrochemical products, one economist said.

Exports of goods for February were up 17.9 per cent from the same month last year to \$19.87 billion, while imports surged 45.1 per cent to \$12.43 billion.

Although exports were strong, the growth was in value rather than volume, Akahane noted. The higher value comes from the rise of the yen against the dollar over the past year, he added.

The current-account surplus dropped nearly \$200 million from January to \$7.86 billion, while the trade of just goods fell \$650 million to \$4.5 billion.

Pike said the improvement in Japan's trade picture should help ease some criticism from the United States. Because Japan's surplus is falling, Washington's criticism could turn more to Asia's newly industrialised countries, he added.

Japan, though, could see more pressure emerging from Europe because its exports have been on the rise there, Pike said.

Although prices of Japanese goods in the United States have climbed due to the appreciation of the yen against the dollar, they have not risen much in Europe because the yen has not changed much against currencies there, he said.

S. Korea to launch oil exploration programme

SEOUL, April 1, (Opecna): South Korea will today begin an offshore oil exploration programme in a 5,000 sq. km. area in the East Sea under a government scheme, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Energy and Resources here. The programme will last till end of April.

The East Sea area was excluded from previous oil prospecting and development plans due to its depth of around 1,000 metres.

Before 1980, offshore oil development programmes could be launched only in areas with depths of 200 metres.

Iran boosts fuel imports as tanker war escalates

NICOSIA, April 1, (AP): Shipping analysts believe the Iraqis will intensify strikes aimed at throttling Iran's oil exports, a prediction that comes amid a Gulf war escalation and reports of increased Iranian imports of refined fuel.

"We can't see an end to the tanker war," Eric Ramheim of the Oslo-based International Association of Independent Tanker Owners, or Intertanko, said in a telephone interview.

"We had hoped the tanker war was coming to an end after a recent lull, but the situation is worse now than it's been for a long time," he said, referring to retaliatory strikes against Gulf shipping in the 7-1/2-year-old war. "You think it's reached a peak, and then it just gets worse."

Iran, one of the world's major oil producers, is importing

record amounts of refined petroleum products, such as kerosene and jet fuel, the Middle East Economic Survey reported this week.

"This unprecedented sudden import of gas oil could be due either to damage inflicted on Iranian refineries because of the war," the respected oil industry newsletter said, or because Tehran may be "taking precautionary measures and stocking up these products in anticipation of a further escalation in the war."

The surge in Iran's refined imports coincided with an unprecedented Iraqi missile bombardment of Tehran and other key cities during the last month. Iran has responded with its own missile and artillery blasts in the so-called "war of the cities."

The weekly Economic Survey, published in Nicosia, said the Iraqians have chartered a 200,000-ton tanker from West Germany's Marimpex Trading Company to deliver a full load of gas oil — the equivalent of more than 2 million barrels — from Rotterdam next month.

The Iraqians already have taken delivery of nearly 3 million barrels of gas in recent weeks, industry sources said.

Makeshift

Iran has imported 300,000 barrels a day for the last 18 months after Iraqi raids reduced its domestic refining capacity by as much as one-third.

In contrast, Iran exported an estimated 550,000 barrels a day of refined petroleum products. There are 42 gallons to the barrel, and 3.8 litres to the gallon.

A large formation of Iraqi

fighter-bombers attacked Iran's big Kharg Island oil terminal in the northern end of the Gulf on March 19, badly damaging two of the estimated 25 tankers that shuttle oil to makeshift terminal further south for transshipment to delivery tankers.

The 316,379-ton Avaj and the 249,829-ton Sanaadaj were left in flames, and 50 crewmen were killed. Shipping sources said both vessels were so badly hit they probably will be scrapped.

The loading facilities on Kharg, heavily defended by anti-aircraft missile batteries, also were damaged, the Economic Survey said.

The main systems on the west of the island were knocked out in the bombing, forcing the Iraqians to switch loading to a smaller jetty, slowing down exports that are Tehran's main

source of revenue for its war effort, the Survey said.

Several other shuttle tankers, either owned by the state-run National Iranian Co. or chartered by it, are believed to have been put out of action in recent Iraqi strikes.

Because Iraq's Gulf ports have been closed since the early days of the war, the Iraqians have to take revenge by attacking neutral ships.

"The Iraqis are the key," Ramheim said. "Now they're attacking again, we think the situation's going to get worse because of Iran always retaliates."

Iranian gunboats attacked a Danish supertanker and a Norwegian-operated tanker on Monday, setting both ablaze after Iraq reported three air strikes on Iranian tankers.

Switzerland displaces W. Germany as No. 2

Japan most creditworthy nation again

NEW YORK, April 1, (AP): Switzerland has displaced West Germany as the world's second most creditworthy nation behind Japan, a new survey of international bankers reveals.

The United States — for many years the bankers' No. 1 choice — remains in fourth place. And in general the world's bankers seem to be taking a gloomier view of the world debt situation.

In a survey of 112 nations, the American financial magazine Institutional Investor finds that the average country's credit rat-

ing in March has dropped considerably from a similar survey last September.

Every six months the New York-based monthly asks about 100 international banks to rate the creditworthiness of more than 100 nations on a scale of 0 to 100. In the magazine's March survey Japan ranks first with a score of 94.6, and North Korea 112th with 4.0.

The global average rating was 38.9, down 0.4 points from last September, and down 1.1 points from March 1987. Institutional Investor notes that this is the

fourth consecutive drop from the peak of 40.6 attained in March 1986.

Countries with higher credit ratings generally find it easier to borrow from international commercial banks and are likely to obtain more favourable credit terms.

Stable

"The most stable region in recent surveys has been Western Europe," the magazine says, "but this time it registered the biggest gain of any region, rising 0.6 points to 73.9."

Britain to import Algerian natural gas

ALGIERS, April 1, (Opecna): Algeria will supply Britain with 600 million cu. m. of natural gas over the next three years, it was reported here on Wednesday.

According to the Algerian Press Service, a contract was signed on Tuesday between the Algerian national oil company (Sonatrach) and British Gas.

Algeria has recently signed several agreements with other countries in a move to increase its market share and diversify markets for its natural gas, the news agency said.

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World Bank lends \$400m to Argentina

WASHINGTON, April 1, (AP) — The World Bank approved a \$400 million loan package yesterday to financially troubled Argentina and its banks.

Funds from the 15-year low interest loan will be released in two stages. The first half will become available immediately, with the release of the final \$200 million contingent on the success of Argentina's economic recovery.

The World Bank said it made the loan to encourage deposits and confidence in the Argentine banking system, improve the distribution of credit and reduce its cost.

This action comes after a \$317 million loan from the IMF two weeks ago.

Dollar and stock prices fall in Tokyo

TOKYO, April 1, (AP) — The US dollar and stock prices fell in Tokyo trading today as trading decreased with the approach of the Easter holidays in the United States and Europe.

The US currency opened at 124.30 yen and traded between a narrow range of 124.05-124.50 yen. It finished the week at 124.10 yen, down 0.40 yen from yesterday's close of 124.50 yen.

"There is not much happening," said Peter Tasker, head of research at Kleinwort Benson. "The dollar is weak and unpopular," he said, and a "poor supply and demand" contributed to the currency's fall.

The Bank of Japan intervened immediately after the foreign exchange opened for dealing to prop up the sagging currency, but Tasker said the amount of dollars the central bank bought

was very small. The intervention was a ritual, he added. The bank does not publicly comment on its activities.

"It's the Easter holiday and people are not doing anything," added a dealer at a major American securities firm, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Anticipating

Traders said they are anticipating a weak dollar in the new 1988 fiscal year that began today. "The dollar will be wobbly," Tasker said, "but it probably will not fall below 120 yen."

On the Tokyo Stock Exchange, meanwhile, the Nikkei stock average of 225 selected issues fell for a second consecutive day and lost 156.04 points, or 0.59 per cent. It closed at 26,104.22 points.

The loss was a "reaction to an incredibly strong rise over the past week," Tasker said, referring to the 1,000-point gain the Nikkei averaged on Monday through Wednesday. Yesterday, the main market barometer lost 59.81 points.

Traders predicted the market would be quiet and show little direction during its half-day session tomorrow because of the Easter weekend.

Meanwhile, the dollar held fairly steady in extremely thin foreign exchange trading in Europe today ahead of the Easter weekend.

Most European and Asian centres were closed for Good Friday.

Trading did take place in Italy, France and Luxembourg, but dealers were idle most of the day, traders said.

"They are all lying low," said one trader in Milan. "There is absolutely no direction at all."

Gold markets in London, Zurich and Hong Kong were closed.

Other dollar rates in Europe late afternoon today, compared with late yesterday.

— 1.6565 West German marks, up from 1.6555

— 1.3650 Swiss francs, up from 1.3635

— 5.6270 French francs, up from 5.6130

— 1.8595 Dutch guilders, up from 1.8575

— 1.228.75 Italian lire, down from 1.235.50

— 1.2335 Canadian dollars, down from 1.2339

The British pound was quoted at \$1.8895 — a six-year high for the second day in a row — compared with \$1.8878 yesterday.

Conference in Bahrain ends

Link between NRIs and Indian officials necessary

By M.C. Bose from Bahrain

LEADING financial experts and seminar investment analysts (most of them are non-resident NRIs) yesterday ended a Gulf NRI investment seminar at Bahrain's Diplomat Hotel.

The seminar was organised by the Bahrain-based NRI Investors Group in association with organisations operating in Kuwait and the UAE and opened on Thursday.

In his inaugural address, M.P. Muralidhara Menon, India's ambassador to Bahrain, said continuous and systematic communication links between NRIs and government of India officials was necessary in order to obliterate misunderstanding and lack of awareness of the various facilities that are available. Despite the fact that investment opportunities are available to NRIs in different parts of the world, positive contribution to the growth of the motherland should be considered as a primary duty of every Indian apart from taking into account his personal preferences and investments.

Menon told the Arab Times that the impressive strides made by India in the fields of industry, trade, science and technology

and the liberal policy direction have opened up various opportunities for investment. In the context of Bahrain, the recent visit of Yousif Ahmed Al Shirawi and Habib Ahmed Qassim, the ministers of development and industry and commerce and agriculture, have given rise to possibilities of closer collaboration in a number of fields. According to available indications, many joint ventures are likely to be set up between the two countries.

The ambassador said NRIs could perceive these as opportunities for participation and added that similar possibilities existed for cooperation with other Gulf countries in view of their friendly relations with India.

Claimed
When asked about the importance of NRI investment, Menon said that while a bulk of the total estimated amount of Rs. 120,000 million was claimed by bank deposits (as NRE accounts), about Rs 10,000 million was accounted by shares in Indian companies, although a downward trend has been witnessed in recent years. Promotion of industrial service ventures in India could also be perceived as an area potent for substantial

investment by the NRIs.

Menon added: "While several positive factors inherent among NRIs has been recognised financial resources, access to technology and an understanding of the international markets, existing problems can be resolved through various measures that have been introduced by the government, including liberalisation of policies, rationalisation of procedures and the creation of a window mechanism at the central and state government levels."

Sentiment

The seminar also witnessed a free and frank expression of experience and sentiments bringing into focus the existing irregularities and inadequacies. Participants were hopeful that the deliberations will pave the way for the emergence of an environment that will encourage greater participation with assured productivity and profitability of investments.

Meanwhile, a message from Eduardo Falerio, India's minister of state for banking and finance, gave new confidence among the NRIs in general and NRI investors in particular. "In recognising the importance of the various issues involved, the government is keen to foster the

economic and cultural ties with Indian nationals settled abroad."

"A series of facilities including fiscal concessions have been extended to facilitate the investments of NRIs in their home country. Exercises are at hand to streamline the procedures, rules and regulations relating to available investment potential and ongoing projects with a view to further promoting such ventures. While the seminar organised in Bahrain offers a unique opportunity for NRI investors to discuss various issues, the views expressed will be considered in establishing a system that is more effective," he said in his message.

While the total investment of non-resident Indians NRIs in their home country was reported to be substantially high, participants at the seminar were critical of the absence of adequate measures that can ensure the safety of their involvement to some private firms on the one hand and the lack of uniformity in the laws, rules and regulations of the government on the other.

Piyush Mankot, controller of capital issue and joint secretary at the Ministry of Finance called for a proper understanding of the systems followed in India with regard to investments and the

role played by his department in matters relating to public issues and investment policies. He added: "It is our view that the structural modifications should be effected to the stock exchange system in force in India. Its concept and composition should be reviewed and altered to not only help NRIs to plan their investment methodically with safety and security."

Manu Chhabria, a leading businessman and industrialist based in the UAE said a strong need existed for the establishment of a forum in India to promote the interest of the NRIs. Such a forum would help to remove this misconception and approach of NRIs regarding their country.

Ripe
"The investment climate is ripe particularly in the industrial and core sectors," he added.

Norio Meghiani, president of NRI investors group, Bahrain, welcoming the gathering, said a common platform was reached for the NRIs and India was gaining urgency in order to derive maximum mutual benefits.

C. S. S. Khanpuri, the chairman Kuwait NRI Forum, K. V. Mohan Menon, vice president, and Kavalan the honorary secretary also spoke.

China unveils new joint ventures law

BEIJING, April 1, (AP) — The government yesterday unveiled long-awaited draft laws that promise state factory managers and foreign joint ventures substantial autonomy in making business decisions.

The two proposed laws and a draft constitutional amendment legitimising the private sector were submitted to the 2,970 delegates of the National People's Congress. China's legislature.

Vitality

The delegates are expected to discuss the measures in small group meetings over the next week and approve them on April 13, the last day of the Congress' 30-day session.

In presenting the proposed law on state-owned enterprises, Lu Dong, head of the State Econ-

omic Commission, said it was essential to China's modernisation.

"Whether or not, (state-owned) enterprises can have great vitality will have a great influence on the overall development of our national economy," he told delegates gathered in the huge Great Hall of the People.

"Therefore... we must separate government and industry," Lu said, "and guarantee the autonomy of enterprise management."

The government hopes autonomy will turn China's often debt-ridden, inefficient state stores and factories into lean, competitive production machines. Released from the shackles of state plans, they will be free to respond to changes in market demand — and also will be free to go bankrupt if they make bad

decisions.

It is no coincidence that the government plans to implement a bankruptcy law later this year.

More than 70 per cent of China's 90,000 state-run enterprises already have signed contracts with the government giving their managers some degree of administrative autonomy. The new law is intended to erase lingering ambiguities over the roles of managers, local Communist Party officials, local government and unions.

Amendment

Similarly, the proposed law of Chinese-foreign joint ventures and the constitutional amendment allowing private enterprise serve to codify changes that have already been introduced in the economy, rather than break new ground.

Although the draft state enterprise law probably is the most widely discussed in Chinese history, having been submitted to special seminars nationwide, yesterday was the first time its actual wording was released to the general public.

"An enterprise shall, in accordance with law, make its own managerial decisions, take full responsibility for its own profits and losses," reads one of the 68 articles.

Enterprises also will be allowed to sell their products on their own after meeting state quotas, choose their own suppliers, set their prices and enter into contracts with foreign parties.

Senior leader Deng Xiaoping first suggested such a law in 1978, when he began his campaign to reduce central planning and

revitalise the economy through monetary incentives. Versions have been discussed by four previous legislative sessions, generating debate unprecedented in China's largely rubber-stamp Congress.

Revisions

Official media reports indicate the Congress' standing law committee made revisions almost up to the last minute. One major criticism was that workers would be victimised by autocratic managers.

Thus, late additions include several clauses that promise wide powers to workers, substantially eroding business managers' promised autonomy.

"An enterprise shall ensure that its staff and workers enjoy the status of masters... and shall practice democratic management," the bill says.

KUWAIT

| As of 30.3.88 | | LT | HIGH | LOW | VOL | TRADE |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| BANK SECTOR | P.CLS | | | | | |
| NATIONAL BANK | 0.890 | 0.870 | 0.880 | 0.870 | 1165000 | 44 |
| GULF BANK | 0.350 | 0.350 | 0.350 | 0.345 | 420000 | 21 |
| COMMERCIAL BK | 0.248 | 0.246 | 0.246 | 0.246 | 510000 | 13 |
| ABLI BANK | 0.290 | 0.285 | 0.290 | 0.285 | 110000 | 4 |
| B.K.N.E. | 0.300 | | | | | |
| K.R.E.B. | 0.390 | | | | | |
| BURGANK | 0.250 | 0.248 | 0.248 | 0.248 | 20000 | 1 |
| K.F.HOUSE | 0.480 | 0.475 | 0.475 | 0.475 | 150000 | 7 |
| INVESTMENT SECTOR | | | | | | |
| KUT INV. CO. | 0.184 | | | | | |
| K.F.T.E.I.C. | 0.210 | | | | | |
| K.I.I.C. | 0.162 | | | | | |
| COM.FACILITIES | 0.430 | 0.375 | 0.380 | 0.375 | 220000 | 9 |
| ANLH INV. | 0.000 | | | | | |
| I.F.A. | 0.102 | 0.102 | 0.102 | 0.102 | 100000 | 4 |
| INV. PEARL KWT | 0.104 | 0.104 | 0.104 | 0.104 | 80000 | 4 |
| INSURANCE SECTOR | | | | | | |
| KUT INSURANCE | 0.690 | | | | | |
| GULF INSURANCE | 0.370 | | | | | |
| ANLH INS. CO. | 0.510 | | | | | |
| MARBA INS. CO. | 0.430 | | | | | |
| REAL ESTATE SECTOR | | | | | | |
| K.R.E.S.T. CO. | 0.240 | | | | | |
| UNI R.E.S.T. CO. | 0.120 | 0.118 | 0.118 | 0.118 | 540000 | 11 |
| B.R.E.S.T. CO. | 0.224 | | | | | |
| SALHIAH R.E. | 0.075 | | | | | |
| KUT PROJECTS | 0.088 | 0.087 | 0.087 | 0.087 | 40000 | 1 |
| KUT R.E.I.COM | 0.000 | | | | | |
| INDUSTRY SECTOR | | | | | | |
| NAT IND. CO. | 0.510 | | | | | |
| KUT N.P. IND. | 0.295 | | | | | |
| KUT CEMENT CO. | 0.238 | | | | | |
| REF. IND. CO. | 0.385 | | | | | |
| N.A.M.T.CO. | 0.000 | | | | | |
| KUT CABLE | 0.970 | 0.970 | 0.970 | 0.970 | 5000 | 1 |
| K.PH.IND. CO. | 0.122 | | | | | |
| CONT.MARINE | 0.350 | | | | | |
| K.SH.REP.CO. | 0.042 | | | | | |
| SERVICE SECTOR | | | | | | |
| OVERLAND TRANS | 0.081 | | | | | |
| K.N.C.CO. | 0.190 | | | | | |
| KUT HOTELS CO. | 0.174 | | | | | |
| P.WAREHOUSING | 0.166 | | | | | |
| COM.MKT.CHRY. | 0.020 | | | | | |
| MOBILE TELE. | 0.355 | 0.355 | 0.355 | 0.355 | 150000 | 8 |
| KUT COMPUTER | 0.190 | 0.190 | 0.190 | 0.190 | 20000 | 1 |
| FOOD SECTOR | | | | | | |
| LIVESTOCK T.T. | 0.244 | | | | | |
| UNTO FISHERIES | 0.146 | | | | | |
| UNTO POULTRY | 0.238 | | | | | |
| KUT FOODS | 0.300 | | | | | |
| AGRI. FOOD PRD. | 0.150 | | | | | |
| NON-KUT SECTOR | | | | | | |
| BIN. INTER.BK | 0.069 | 0.068 | 0.068 | 0.068 | 160000 | 2 |
| BIN.N.EAST.BK | 0.047 | | | | | |
| UNTO GULF BK | 0.000 | | | | | |
| COAST INVEST. | 0.088 | 0.088 | 0.088 | 0.088 | 80000 | 2 |
| A.G. INV. CORP | 0.039 | 0.039 | 0.039 | 0.039 | 260000 | 2 |
| FIRST GULF BK | 0.620 | | | | | |
| B.K.I.G. | 0.086 | | | | | |

KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE

| COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET | | P.CLS | LT | HIGH | LOW | VOL | TRADE |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| FINANCIAL SECTOR | | | | | | | |
| PEARL INV.CO. | 0.098 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| GULF INV.CO. | 0.041 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| GULF INTL INS | 0.009 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| ARAB INT.CO. | 0.055 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| SHARJAH INS | 0.000 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| GULF UNION INS | 0.055 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| INDUSTRIAL SECTOR | | | | | | | |
| B-GULF MEDICAL | 0.016 | 0.020 | 0.020 | 0.020 | 0.020 | 1360000 | 7 |
| C-R.K.WHITE CHMT | 0.021 | 0.020 | 0.020 | 0.020 | 0.020 | 1360000 | 7 |
| A-DUMAN CEMENT | 0.007 | 0.020 | 0.020 | 0.020 | 0.020 | 1360000 | 7 |
| E-FUJIRAH CEMENT | 0.008 | 0.010 | 0.010 | 0.010 | 0.010 | 840132 | 3 |
| F-SHARJAH CEMENT | 0.010 | 0.010 | 0.010 | 0.010 | 0.010 | 840132 | 3 |
| G-GULF CEMENT | 0.015 | 0.010 | 0.010 | 0.010 | 0.010 | 840132 | 3 |
| H-UNM QATVAIN | 0.019 | 0.010 | 0.010 | 0.010 | 0.010 | 840132 | 3 |

Indonesia receives higher tin output quota

JAKARTA, April 1, (Opecna) — Indonesia's tin sales on world markets received a significant boost following an increase in the country's production quota allotted by the Association of Tin Producing Countries, according to a spokesman of Tambang Timah, the state tin company.

Under the new quota Indonesia could produce 29,000 tonnes of tin a year, an increase of 4,484 tonnes over previous levels, he said, adding that about 90 per cent of the total output would be exported.

Currency rates

FOLLOWING are international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

| | Buying | Selling |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| US dollar | 27249 | 27386 |
| Sterling | 51146 | 51540 |
| Dm | 16395 | 16527 |
| S.fr | 19846 | 20019 |
| F.fr | 04827 | 04869 |
| L.lira | 0002214 | 0002229 |
| J.yen | 0021677 | 0021979 |
| B.dinar | 07417 | 07459 |
| UAE dir | 07262 | 07303 |
| S.riyal | 07482 | 07527 |
| Q.riyal | 07058 | 07160 |

KD deposit rates jump dramatically

KUWAITI dinar deposit rates jumped dramatically on Thursday for overnight funds and firmed in most other maturities amid tight liquidity.

Dealers said overnight dealt at 30 per cent and at 20 per cent and was offered as high as 40 per cent, compared to 6-1/2, 5-1/2 per cent levels on Wednesday.

Banks bid actively to finance dollar purchases dated on Thursday and by early afternoon dealers were still quoting 25/10 per cent.

Other short dates were marginally above Wednesday levels at 6-1/2, 5-1/2 per cent for the spot-neat and tomorrow-next, and seven, six per cent for the one-week.

The fixed periods were quiet but climbed with the short dates especially in the one-month, which is 5-7/8, 3/8 per cent from 5-1/4, 4-3/4 per cent on Wednesday.

Three and six-month funds

were quoted at 5-3/4, 1/4 per cent each and the one-year at 5-5/8, 1/8 per cent.

The Central Bank twice adjusted its dinar exchange rate to account for the dollar's fall on international markets, first to 0.2730/13 to the dollar and then to 0.2727/88 from Wednesday's 0.2731/91. Commercial banks quoted rates of around 0.2729/300.

Meanwhile, in Bahrain, the Saudi riyal deposit market edged higher on Thursday as banks in the kingdom and Bahrain's offshore market sought funds ahead of a possible Saudi government bond issue to finance the 1988 budget deficit.

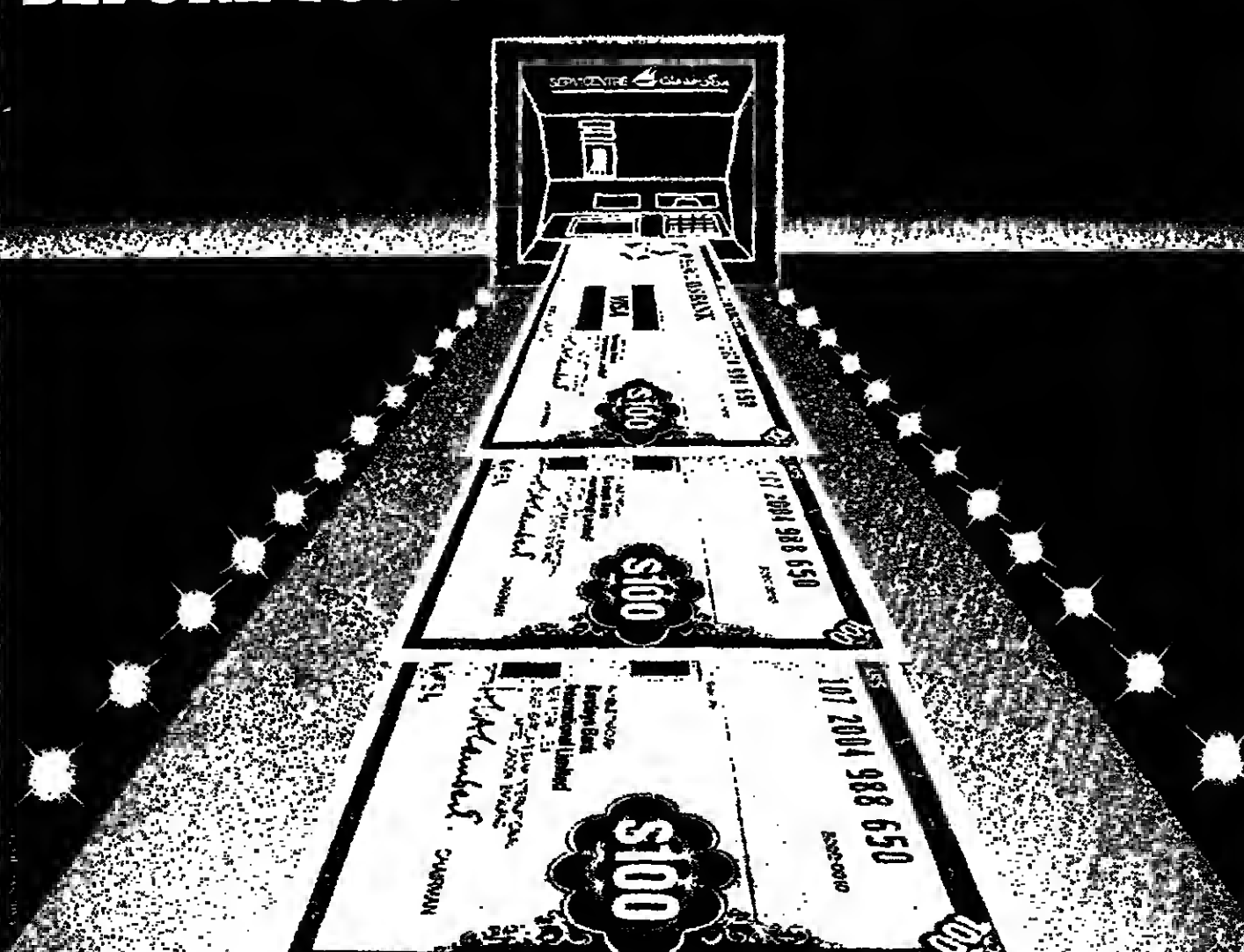
Dealers said the market was calmer than on Wednesday when trading was at times hectic after kingdom bankers, cited in a Reuters report, said the bond issue would be postponed.

An official Saudi source later denied the report, prompting some fresh borrowing interest as banks began trading on Thursday. Saudi banks were reluctant to put deposits on offer, while Bahrain banks were generally looking for funds.

The issue of how and when Saudi Arabia will offer bonds has dominated the interbank market since the scheme was unveiled in late December. Wednesday's official statement from Riyadh made no mention about timing of a possible issue.

Dealers said the market remained confused, but few if any banks in Saudi Arabia were prepared to go short of the riyal while an issue remained in the offing.

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Golden Investors

| | | |
|-------|-----|--------|
| | | 21.025 |
| | | 18.570 |
| | | 8.867 |
| | | 13.143 |
| | | 27.245 |
| | | 51.885 |
| Bid | USD | 13.340 |
| Offer | USD | 13.340 |
| Bid | USD | 5.855 |
| Offer | USD | 5.855 |
| | ND | 4.625% |
| | GBP | 5.50% |
| | GBP | 7.50% |
| | SFR | 1.00% |

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ID card and Civil card in the name of Dominga Rodrigues. Tele. B. Rodrigues, 2466675/76/78/79. (AT6-41652-2)

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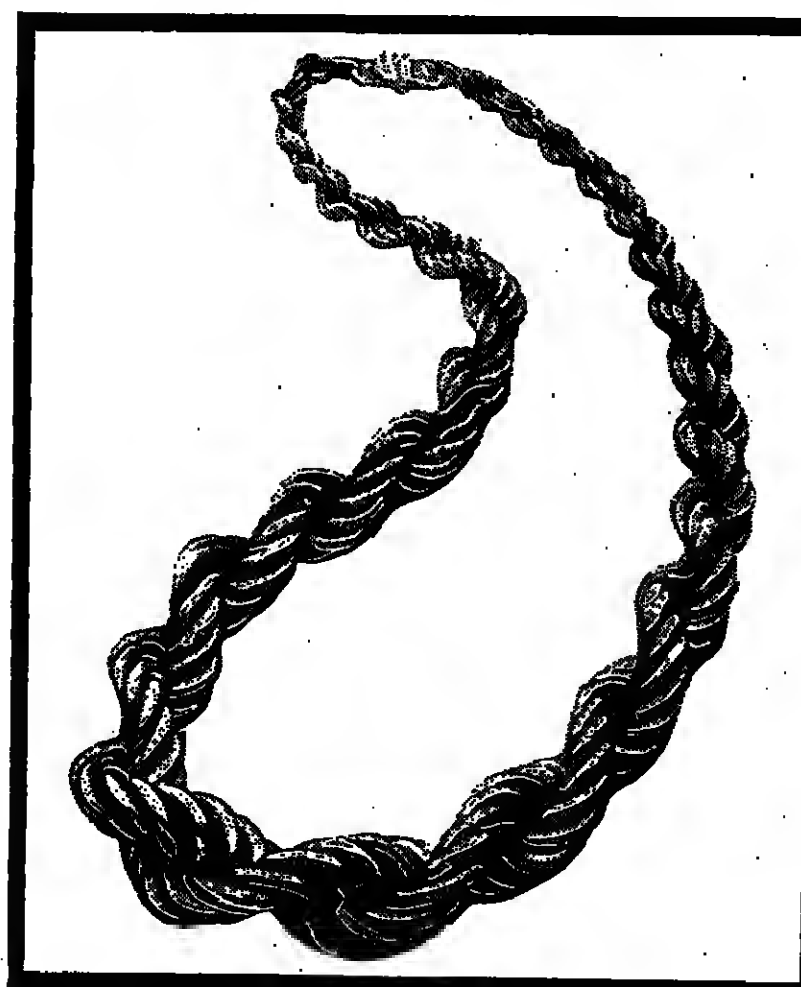
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Australia name squad for Pakistan tour

SYDNEY, April 1, (Reuters): Australian cricket selectors yesterday announced a squad of 15 to tour Pakistan in September for a series of Tests and one-day matches.

The squad chosen, while structured around a core of established Test players, raises a few eyebrows within cricketing circles with the selection of several young and relatively unknown players.

In a major surprise, New South Wales captain and Test wicketkeeper Greg Dyer has been dropped by the selectors and replaced by unknown Queensland Ian Healy.

Equally surprising was the recall of forgotten Test opening batsman and Western Australia's captain Graeme Wood and the selection of Victorian youngster Jamie Siddons, who is yet to make his Test debut.

As expected, left West Australian fast bowler Bruce Reid returns after missing the latter part of 1987/88 season through a back injury.

The selectors have also announced three standby players in the form of pace bowlers Merv Hughes, Chris Matthews, and dynamic New South Wales all-rounder Mark Waugh.

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) said players would be subject to stringent fitness tests at a training camp in August when the final composition of the touring squad will be decided.

The Australian squad is: Allan Border (captain), Geoff Marsh, David Boon, Tony Dodemaide, Ian Healy, Dean Jones, Craig McDermott, Tim May, Bruce Reid, Jamie Siddons, Peter Sleep, Peter Taylor, Michael Veletta, Stephen Waugh, and Graeme Wood.

Nystrom and Arias upset

HOUSTON, April 1, (UPI): Top-seeded Kent Carlsson of Sweden defeated defending champion Jimmy Becker 6-3, 6-3 last night in a second-round match at the River Oaks International tournament.

Seeded players who lost yesterday included No. 3 Joakim Nystrom of Sweden, a 7-6 (7-2), 7-5, loser to Mark Dickson, and No. 4 David Pate, who lost 6-3, 6-0, to Sammy Giammalva of Houston.

Advancing were eighth-seeded Guillermo Perez Roldan of Argentina, who beat his compatriot Guillermo Villas 6-3, 6-3, and sixth-seeded Andre Lecote of France, who defeated Christian Bergstrom of Sweden, 1-6, 7-6 (7-5), 7-5.

In earlier matches were decided by third-set tiebreakers. Jonas Svensson of Sweden beat American Jim Currier 5-7, 6-0, 7-6 (4-0), and Peter Lundgren of Sweden beat Christian van Rensburg 6-4, 0-6, 7-6 (7-4).

Richards struggles to be fit for first Test

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, April 1, (Reuters): West Indies captain Viv Richards is struggling to be fit for the first Test against Pakistan starting in Georgetown tomorrow.

Richards missed four of the five one-day internationals against the touring team after a haemorrhoids operation last month and his chances of playing were put at 60-40 by manager Jackie Hendricks.

Richards confessed that he was in some discomfort while running and that any decision over whether he would play would be left to the last minute.

Despite their ascendancy in the one-day series, the absence of Richards would be a big blow for West Indies. The balance of the side would be upset with the Antiguan's tight bowling likely to be missed.

Burden
If Phil Simmons replaced Richards, Carl Hooper would have to shoulder the burden of bowling spin. He has taken only two Test wickets with his off-spin.

Should Richards be unfit, Gordon Greenidge, who led his side to a 5-0 triumph in the one-day series, will lead his country for the first time in a Test.

Curtley Ambrose, West Indies' most recent "find" in the pace department, has recovered from a swollen ankle and will make his Test debut. "Young Bird" as he is nicknamed, took nine for 103 off 28.3 overs in the first three one-day internationals before being injured.

Malcolm Marshall, having recovered from a knee injury, will take the new ball, with Patrick Patterson and Courtney Walsh making up the pace quartet.

Pakistan are at last able to select from a full squad, although Tauseef Ahmed's shoulder injury has already forced him to return home. Ijaz Faqih, his replacement, arrived in Guyana only last Sunday but will play in the Test.

Faqih, an off-spinner who bowled an economical seven-

SHASTRI AND HIRWANI SHINE AGAINST NEW ZEALAND

Indians rout Kiwis for Sharjah Cup

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, April 1, (Reuters): India, who scored 107 runs off their last 10 overs, beat New Zealand by 52 runs to win the Sharjah Cup cricket tournament today and a prize of \$30,000.

All-rounder Kapil Dev hammered 49 not out off 26 balls in the late scoring spree that carried India to a formidable 250 for seven from their 50 overs. New Zealand never looked like overhauling them and were all out for 198 in 45.3 overs.

The New Zealanders collected \$20,000 and Sri Lanka, the third team in the competition \$20,000 and Sri Lanka, the third team in the competition \$15,000.

Leg-spinner Narendra Hirwani, who marked his Test debut earlier this year with 16 wickets against the West Indies, was named Man of the Series after he destroyed the New Zealand middle-order to finish with four for 46 off 10 overs.

His 10 wickets in three matches made him the most successful bowler in the tournament.

Captain Ravji Shastri, who struck three sixes and three fours in making 72 off 68 balls, helped Kapil Dev in taking India's overall run rate to five an over. The pair added 73 for the sixth wicket and for his contribution.

Shastri was made Man of the Match.

Kapil Dev rounded off the Indian innings by swinging the last two balls from Ewen Chatfield for leg-side sixes. Richard Hadlee also suffered as the later Indian batsmen stepped up the tempo, his last five overs going for 41 runs.

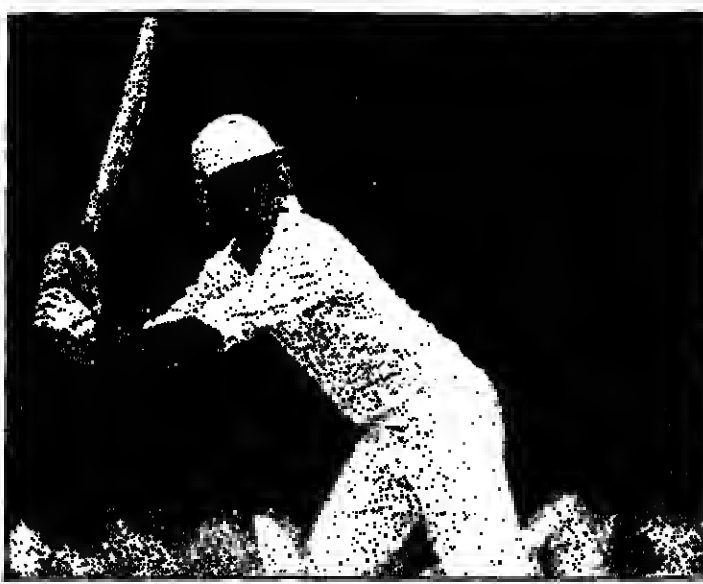
New Zealand had bowled and fielded magnificently to restrict India to 143 for four off the first 40 overs. Only veteran Mohinder Amarnath batted freely at the start of the Indian innings, scoring a compact 58.

While John Wright was going well, New Zealand might have pulled off an unlikely victory. The New Zealand captain batted beautifully for his 55, which included five fours, and his run out was a wasteful end to his fine effort.

Of the later batsmen, Mark Greatbatch and Ian Smith scored 47 and 40 but never threatened to deny India their victory.

"We have no excuses," Wright said. "My run out and our bowling in the last ten overs cost us the match."

Wright described Hirwani as an "interesting bowler" and said: "We did not play as intelligently as we should have done against



Shastri: Man of the Match

him. Shastri said: "It always feels good to win. We were in control after scoring 250 which is a very formidable total."

Shastri conceded that before the last ten overs "New Zealand had us on the rack. If we had been restricted to around 200, then the story might have been different."

Scoreboard
INDIA
K. Srikkanth b Chatfield 14

N. Sidhu c Hadlee b Patel 33
W.V. Raman b Kuggeleja 7
M. Amarnath c Greatbatch b Morrison 58
M. Azharuddin run out 6
R. Shastri b Hadlee 72
Kapil Dev not out 49
K. More c Morrison b Chatfield 5
A. Ayub not out 8
Extras (b-lb-w-2) 6
Total (for seven wickets, 50 overs) 250
Fall of wickets: 1-28 2-49 3-70 4-82 5-154 6-227 7-232
Did not bat: S. Sharma, N. Hirwani

Becker thrashes Gilbert to reach final

DALLAS, April 1, (Reuters): Second-seeded Boris Becker of West Germany removed one of the few jinxes of his career by beating American Brad Gilbert 6-4, 6-2, 6-1 yesterday to advance to the final of the \$500,000 World Championship Tennis finals.

Becker, defeated by Gilbert in three previous encounters, will face the winner of the semifinal between top-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden and Yannick Noah of France.

Gilbert, suffering from a sore left ankle, broke Becker in the third game of the match for 2-1 but had problems with Becker's powerful serve, which tallied 12 aces in the match.

Becker promptly broke back for 2-2 and broke again with a backhand pass for 4-2.

Becker, ranked fourth in the world, stumbled at the end of the first set when he went up 5-2. The 20-year-old West German saved a break point in the seventh game and then squandered four match points on Gilbert's serve in the eighth game.

Gilbert, 10th in the world, prolonged the set by breaking Becker in the ninth game for 4-5. The American fought off a fifth set point with a running forehand winner before Becker finally closed out the set when Gilbert sailed a routine backhand long.

Becker has not lost to anyone four consecutive times except for Ivan Lendl.

"What can I say? I played a perfect match. He has always caught me at the worst moments of my career, times when I had

mental problems. Tonight, I started better than I finished," Becker said.

Becker picked up his first serve in the second set, hitting at least one ace in each of his four service games. He broke Gilbert on a double fault in the second game and again in the eighth game with a backhand winner to close out the second set.

Becker was even more impressive in the third set, holding off five break points with his serve in the third game before closing it out with an ace to take control of the third set.

Edberg cruised past last-minute substitute Martin Jaite Wednesday night, 6-4, 6-3, 6-0. Noah won Wednesday's other quarter finals match, using an overpowering serve to surprise Tim Mayotte, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

Tarabini stuns Manuela Maleeva

LARGO, Fla., April 1, (Reuters): Upset, Tarabini, a 19-year-old Argentine, playing the best of her career, upset Bulgarian second seed Manuela Maleeva 7-6 (9-7), 2-6, 7-6 (7-3) yesterday to reach the semifinal of the Florida Women's Tennis Open.

In an earlier second-round match, sixth-seeded Sylvia Hanika of West Germany struggled to beat South African Rosalyn Fairbank 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Fifth-seeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria also advanced yesterday, taking 2-1/2 hours and three sets to eliminate Petra Huber of Austria 6-7 (3-7), 6-3, 6-1 in second-round play.

Tarabini, 19, played to the crowd of some 3,000 fans who loudly backed the Argentine.

Brought
"I'm so disappointed," Manuela Maleeva said. "I was doing everything right but at night I lose a lot of confidence. I missed a lot of overhead shots. I tried to do too much with the ball."

The match was filled with dis-

puted calls, all of which brought the crowd - solidly - behind Tarabini, who had beaten seventh-seeded Isabel Cueto of West Germany to reach the quarterfinal round yesterday.

"I'm very happy with the people, I'm happy on the court and I like to play," Tarabini said. "Maleeva is a good person on and off the court, helping to explain some of the linesman's calls to me, but I think she was more nervous than I was because I just love to play tennis."

Edberg became the WCT's top seed when his Swedish countryman Mats Wilander withdrew from the \$680,000 tournament with a pulled groin muscle and sprained ankle.

Wilander's absence put Jaite into the event and the Argentine exited quietly, breaking Edberg's serve only once in a match that lasted 1 hour, 34 minutes.

Jaite held his serve twice in the first set and had a 30-0 advantage in the fifth game. But Edberg then ran off four straight points, broke Jaite's service and overwhelmed his opponent the rest of the way.

Edberg and Noah have met five times with Edberg winning them all. They have not played in more than a year, however, with Edberg's last triumph coming in the 1986 Masters.

Dinah Shore golf

RANCHO MIRAGE, California, April 1, (Reuters): American Muffin Spencer-Devlin overcame strong gusty winds yesterday to shoot a four-under-par 68 and take a one-stroke lead after the first round of the \$500,000 Dinah Shore golf tournament.

Austrian Jan Stephenson was stroke off the pace, followed by Marta Figueras-Dotul of Spain, two shots behind the leader.

Five players were level at 71 on a day when wind gusts reached 45 miles per hour over the 6,308-yard course at the Mission Hills Country Club.

Oxford tipped to win 134th boat race

LONDON, April 1, (AP): With the heaviest crew in the history of the event and six members back from last year's winner, Oxford University's "Dark Blues" go into tomorrow's 134th boat race as first favourite to beat the "Light Blues" of Cambridge.

Having recovered from last year's mass mutiny that plunged the race into its gravest controversy of modern times, Oxford will be out to avenge its 12th victory in 13 years and further narrow the 69-62 lead that its rival holds in the annual head-to-head clash on the river Thames.

Last year's bitter dispute over team selection that led to four high-calibre American rowers walking out of the Oxford crew generated as much international publicity as the race itself.

Eventually, a weakened Oxford crew, containing four reserves, upset highly favoured Cambridge on a wind-lashed, choppy waters.

One of the American mutineers, 25-year-old Olympic silver medalist Chris Penny, rows for Oxford this year as the team captain. Another rebel, Jon Fish, has returned to the University as a coach.

At an average of 207.5 pounds, the Oxford eight outweighs Cambridge by 11 pounds. It is also more experienced, containing five postgraduate rowers, including Penny and fellow American Mike Gaffney, from Avon, Connecticut.

Australians line up to attack Botham

SYDNEY, April 1, (Reuters): Politicians, leader-writers and former cricketers polished up their haloes before joining the long queue of Australians waiting to stick the knife into England all-rounder Ian Botham yesterday.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke, former captain Ian Chappell and legendary leg-spinner Bill O'Reilly agreed they were glad to be rid of the tempestuous Botham who was sacked by Queensland on Tuesday after just one year of a three-year contract.

The country which introduced aluminium bat-throwing and betting on the opposing team in mid-Test match to the cricketing arena has behaved like a maiden aunt in the face of Botham's behaviour.

Criticism
Hawke, former tough union boss and famed drinker, was tut-tutting with the rest of them on Wednesday.

"He (Botham) let cricket down, he let Queensland down, he let Australia down. I think the Queensland Cricket Association (QCA) made the right decision," Hawke said reporters.

The agnostic premier is a keen sports follower who recently attracted criticism for shouting "Jesus" when he hit a bad drive in a televised Pro-AM golf tournament.

Hawke is eloquent about his love of golf. "Of all the crap that has been written in the last few months, the crappiest has been that Hawke shouldn't be playing golf," Hawke said recently.

Chappell maintained Botham had "not done a hell of a lot" to earn his money with Queensland. Chappell did not mention he was himself no saint on the cricket field.

He once took an Australian newspaper group to court in a defamation suit which he lost. Evidence given at the case included an incident when Chappell punched a West Indian cricket official for which he was convicted in a court in the Caribbean.

Chappell also dropped his trousers to show his backside to the crowd more than once in his career, during which he was twice suspended for three weeks for swearing at umpires.

Ian's brother Greg was the main instigator behind the QCA's decision to sack Botham and fine him \$3,700 after accus-

ations Botham had assaulted a passenger on a domestic flight and damaged a dressing room.

Greg, despite superb batting which netted him 7,110 Test runs, guaranteed himself a place in cricket history when he ordered his brother Trevor to bowl underarm the last ball of a one-day international against New Zealand in 1981.

The ruse, devised to prevent New Zealand scoring the six needed to win, was widely condemned and led to a marked cooling of sporting relations between the two countries.

The fiery O'Reilly, no stranger to controversy having played in the pre-war bodyline series against England, was in print yesterday with an article headlined "Good riddance to the prince of chequebook cricket".

A man who finds little to savour in modern cricket, O'Reilly said he hoped that the Botham experience would sound the death knell of the free trade in players between England and the rest of the cricket world.

Another former Test player, Norman O'Neill, was also sputtering with anger yesterday. "Botham's behaviour is just not on - the incidents are disgusting."

"I'm a fan of Botham's cricket but not his behaviour. And I think he's finally got the penalties he deserves after years of getting away with murder."

Most heavyweight dailies dealt with Botham in their leader columns. The Australian began its offering with "Boorishness has no place in sport".

Behaviour
Only the Brisbane Sun, a Queensland newspaper, took a step back to point out that the behaviour of Australian cricketers has not always been above reproach.

Incidents highlighted include Dennis Lillee throwing away an aluminium bat at Perth after he was refused permission to use it in a 1979 Test, and Lillee and Rod Marsh betting against Australia in a 1981 Test against England.

"When you look at the fine example set by Australian cricketers, you cannot allow a situation where a pommie lout is allowed to get away with behaviour which could bring the game into disrepute," the Brisbane Sun said.

"It just wouldn't be cricket."

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ARGENTINA AND W. GERMANY ELIMINATED

Soviets and Swedes stage upsets



Maradona watches the flight of the ball after heading it toward a teammate. (Reuters wirephoto)

WEST BERLIN, April 1. (Reuters) The Soviet Union and Sweden staged shock upsets against world champions Argentina and hosts West Germany in the West Berlin four-nation soccer tournament yesterday.

The Soviet team turned on a brilliant display of skill and power to humble Diego Maradona's Argentina 4-2. Sweden came back from a goal down at halftime to draw 1-1 with an insipid West German side and won through 4-2 in a penalty shoot-out.

Ignominy
The Soviet Union now face Sweden in tomorrow's final with the two teams who met in the 1986 World Cup final in Mexico less than two years ago facing the ignominy of playing in the warm-up game for third place.

But there was no element of luck in either victory. The Soviet Union, fielding nine Dynamo Kiev players, were simply devastating.

They grabbed two goals in the first 15 minutes through Alexander Zavarov and Gennadi Litovchenko and striker Oleg Protasov added two more in the

second half, one a penalty. Argentina, who included seven of their World Cup winning team, replied through their best player, young midfielder Pedro Troglia, and Maradona, who scored from a direct free-kick in the second half.

It was an exhilarating match, in sharp contrast to the tedium of the opening period of the second game.

The West Germans, who have not won any of their last five matches, led through a Klaus Allofs goal just before the break.

But Peter Truedsson deservedly equalised 16 minutes from time and Sweden, playing neat soccer in the second half, would have wrapped it up in normal time if they had not squandered several chances.

In the end missed penalties by Lothar Matthaeus and Rudi Voeller put Sweden in the final.

Home trainer Franz Beckenbauer, plainly disturbed at his team's form 10 weeks before West Germany stages the European Championship, was asked which of his players he was satisfied with.

"None of them," he replied

poignantly.

Perhaps an even bigger surprise than the results was the lack of spectators at a soccer feast which delivered as much as it promised. Only 10,000 were at the opening game and just 20,000 to see the second, one of the lowest figures ever for a West German international.

West Germany came to the tournament as favourites for the June championship with most expert opinion rating the Soviet side as over the hill.

But the two matches had fans and foreign trainers gazing in wonder at the almost outrageous brilliance of the Dynamo Kiev ensemble and shaking their heads in disbelief at the crass incompetence of the home team.

Three more hours of soccer tomorrow may only serve to confirm that comparing the two teams is like equating a Formula One racing car with a go-kart.

The well-oiled Soviet machine purred along under perfect control thanks to midfielders Zavarov, Vasily Rats and Litovchenko who show skills and subtlety of a kind never before seen in a Russian team.



Barcelona's British striker Gary Lineker holds up the Spanish Cup after his team's victory. (Reuters wirephoto)

Alexanko helps Barcelona outlast Real Sociedad

MADRID, April 1. (Reuters) Barcelona, with a 61st-minute goal by their captain Jose Alexanko, beat Real Sociedad 1-0 in the Spanish Cup final on Wednesday night to clinch a place in European cup competition next season.

It was a success the Catalan club badly needed coming towards the end of a season during which their League form has rarely been better than mediocre. They are lying 11th in the First Division.

After a lacklustre first half, Alexanko seized the opportunity to put his side ahead 16 minutes after the interval.

International midfielder Ramon Caldera, brought on in place of Victor Munoz, floated in a cross when England striker Gary Lineker fired against goalkeeper Luis Arconada. The rebound fell to Alexanko who scored from close range.

Alexanko nearly scored a second five minutes later but the veteran Arconada dived full stretch to deflect the ball for a corner.

Real Sociedad striker Jose Bakero came close in scoring an equaliser in the last minute. Barcelona goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta blocking his shot.

W. Germany retain Champions' Trophy

LAHORE, Pakistan, April 1. (Reuters) West Germany won the Champions' Trophy hockey tournament for the third successive time today, thanks to the number of goals they scored in the week-long event.

West Germany snatched the trophy from Pakistan, who had led the standings going into the final day but managed only a 1-1 draw against world champions Australia in their closing game.

The West Germans, who beat Britain 3-1 today, finished level with Olympic champions Pakistan on points and goal difference.

but earned the trophy because they had scored two more goals than the home side — a total of 11.

Pakistan's young team had to be content with the silver medal while Australia, two points behind, finished third, just ahead of the Soviet Union.

Equalised
West Germany's hero was late substitute Michael Hilgers, who came on when captain Heiner Dnpp was injured with the teams at 1-1.

Hilgers scored twice within 10

minutes, first deflecting a shot from Stefan Blocher and then collecting a long pass from Carsten Fischer.

Britain had outplayed the West Germans for three-quarters of the match but scored only in the 51st minute when captain Richard Dodds put them ahead from a penalty corner.

The goal goaded West Germany into greater action and within one minute Fischer and equalised, again from a penalty corner.

Pakistan pleased a 20,000 crowd when they took the lead

against Australia in the 22nd minute, with a goal against the run of play by Mohammad Irfan.

Australian centre half Warren Birmingham equalised from his team's fifth penalty corner but Pakistan continued to threaten with quick breaks and had two late penalty corners which Mohib sent wide.

| Standings | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|--|--|
| (Tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against and points) | | | | | | | | | |
| W. Germany | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 5 | 8 | | |
| Pakistan | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 8 | | |
| Australia | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 6 | | |
| Soviets | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 5 | | |
| Spain | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 10 | | |
| Britain | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 11 | 0 | | |

Prost and Senna set the pace

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, April 1. (UPI) The McLaren turbo-charged cars of former world champion Alain Prost of France and his Brazilian teammate Ayrton Senna set the pace today in the first training sessions for the opening race in the 1988 Formula One Grand Prix championship.

Prost's Honda-powered car clocked one minute 31.23 seconds round the 3.216-mile Jacarepagua track, venue of Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix, while Senna was half a second behind.

Prost, the 1985 and 1986 titleholder, spun off the track in front of the pits in the final seconds of morning training, but climbed from his car unhurt and scratching his head in apparent puzzlement.

McLaren team manager Creighton Brown said Prost apparently dropped a wheel over the kerb and lost control. "Even world champs make mistakes sometimes," he said.

Senna predicted the pole-winning time for the race would drop to around 1.28 in official training runs later today and again tomorrow.

Fastest
"The car is running very nicely, it's well balanced," he said.

Britain's Nigel Mansell placed third in his Honda-Judd powered Williams, making him the fastest driver using a conventional, non-turbo-charged motor which is less powerful.

"They just lose us on the straights," he said. Mansell, who placed second behind Brazilian Nelson Piquet in last year's championship, said he "had to be happy" with third place.

Khadim and Bakheet win Dubai Powerboat Race

DUBAI, in the "worst weather that we could have had," Dubai's Khadim Saif and co-driver Bakheet Saif ploughed through treacherous seas to finish first overall in the Emirates-sponsored Third Dubai Offshore Powerboat Race at Mina Seyaha yesterday.

The heroic pair, who fought their way through waves ten feet high in places in their 31-foot Gulfcraft powered by twin 225 hp Evenrude engines, claimed the Dh120,000 prize and a Range Rover with two first class return tickets to London on Emirates.

And they shared the much more powerful Group A boats, many of them built to outdistance their poorer relations by miles. In fact, the first Group A boat to finish was ninth place overall and that was the Australian-built catamaran of last year's winner Jaffer Ridha Ali and Australian Ian Travestis.

Prize
But to be fair to Jaffer and Ian, who can fly off to London first class on Emirates with Dh200,000. They can leave their other prize, a Mercedes 500 SEL, at the airport car park.

Jaffer Ali said: "It was a very tough race in very heavy seas. My partner who was 1980 world champion and the builder of no fewer than nine of yesterday's twin-hull entrants, added: "We got lost for a while at the buoy off Jebel Ali, but we were still a good

ten miles in the lead on the run along the shore to the finish."

"That's when disaster struck. We hit a plank of wood which broke up one of the engines and after that we just had to limp home. We were lucky to hold on to first place in Group A."

It was a race that had been expected to finish in just under an hour if conditions had been perfect. The first boat took two hours and 20 minutes, a time difference that shows just how spirited were the seas.

A crowd of more than six thousand turned up to watch the boats enter the water, the dancing and playing of the local bands and an air-shattering performance by the UK pop group Blue Merceades.

Of the race, they saw little, for it took the boats along the Jumeirah shore to Duby Drydock, then straight out to sea for ten miles. At that point, those which hadn't sunk, were swamped or simply broke down, carried on along a Z-shaped course that eventually brought the survivors back to the finish line at Mina Seyaha.

In second place overall were Mohammed and Ahmed Khalifa, winning Dh 100,000 and two first class return tickets to Frankfurt. And the third boat home, the 24 ft Al Shaal, was driven by Khalid Mohammed Salem and Abdullah Buhaleeba.

Two Kuwaiti soccer players return home

KUALA LUMPUR, April 1. (Kuna) Two Kuwait football team players, Amber Saeed and Jaber Zanki, were injured while training for the Asia Cup qualifying soccer tournament and sent home yesterday.

Amber and Jaber were injured during one of the intensive training sessions being held under the Kuwait national team coach Miguel Pereira, a Brazilian.

Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed, the chairman of the Kuwait Football Association, talking about the departure to Kuwait of the injured players, said: "We have sent the injured players home because we feel that the injuries to their muscles will not heal before the tournament starts on April 7. Sheikh Fahd announced that five more players would be joining the 20-man squad already in Kuala Lumpur on April 5.

"Out of the 25 players, we will be selecting the best 20 for the tournament," Sheikh Fahd added.

Recently

Commenting on Kuwait's chances in the qualifying tournament, Sheikh Fahd said: "As you know, our team lost in two tournaments recently, the Gulf tournament and the qualifiers for the Seoul Olympics.

"As a result the morale of our players was down. When we arrived here three days ago, we were uncertain whether our players would be able to perform well in their training sessions due to hot weather here and other problems.

"So our first aim is to boost their morale and confidence in order to get a good team."

Sheikh Fahd said after three days of concentrated training, the boys had shown very good fighting spirit.

"And now we are confident that they will put up a good fight and make everybody happy," he added.

Tyson refuses to talk of defeat

NEW YORK, April 1. (Reuters) Undisputed heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, as stubborn as the dais as he is in the ring, refused on Wednesday to even deal with whether he would retire if Michael Spinks wins their fight this June.

"I can't relate to that question," said Tyson, who puts his 34-0 record on the line against Spinks on June 27 in Atlantic City. "I can't think of a way to lose, but I can tell you 100 ways to win."

Watford seem set for relegation

WATFORD, England, April 1. (Reuters) Watford suffered their sixth defeat in seven games today, losing 1-0 to Queen's Park Rangers and virtually sealing their relegation after six years in the First Division.

Northern Ireland international Alan McDonald gave Rangers their fifth win in six outings when he picked up a half-hearted clearance after the Watford defence and scored in the 50th minute.

Clash
Watford, who are last in the division, appealed unsuccessfully for a penalty after a clash between Paul Parker and Nigel Gibbs.

They failed to test Rangers' goalkeeper David Seaman and as they battled in vain for control of the match two players, international John McClelland and Kenny Jackett, were booked for fouls.

On Wednesday, two goals by the manager's son, Nigel Clough, gave Nottingham Forest a 2-1 victory over Derby County in English League soccer action, while Arsenal held 0-0 by struggling Oxford United.

Clough, whose father, Brian, has taken Forest to two European Champion's Cup titles, scored in the 21st and 53rd minutes, before Forest defender Colin Foster accidentally scored in his own net in the 61st.

Clough's goals took his tally for the season to 20. At Oxford's Manor Ground, Robbie Mustoe, went close to snatching victory for the relegation-threatened home side, but he shot against the post with 13 minutes remaining.

Meanwhile, Manchester United, keen to end a largely disappointing season by finishing runners-up to runaway English First Division leaders Liverpool, will be without central defender Steve Bruce and transfer-seeking Norman Whiteside for tomorrow's home match against Derby.

Bruce, who has played in every League match since joining United from Norwich for £825,000 (\$1.55 million) in December, is serving a one-match suspension.

Northern Ireland international Whiteside, in dispute with manager Alex Ferguson

Kirkland and Eriksson take Safari Rally lead

NAIROBI, April 1. (Reuters) Kenya's Mike Kirkland, and Kenneth Eriksson of Sweden took the lead in the Safari Rally today after mechanical problems on the drive up from the Indian Ocean port of Mombasa cost their rivals valuable time.

Kirkland, driving a Nissan 200SX, was first into Nairobi after 1,652 kms of the 4,220-km race with a time loss of 22 minutes.

Joint
Eriksson, driving a Toyota Supra, arrived minutes later with the same time loss, giving him joint first place.

Many of the other drivers needed major overhauls on the drive through the treacherous Chyuli hills, with gearboxes and suspension systems the main victims of the rugged terrain.

Vic Preston Junior of Kenya, whose Lancia Delta was running in second place in the first half of today's section, did a quick gearbox change on the outskirts of

Nairobi and was in fourth place behind Finland's Juhani Kangas in a Toyota Supra.

Defending champion Hannu Mikkola of Finland dropped out after punctured the radiator of his Opel Kadett GSI and Lars Erik Torp of Sweden, who earlier had been joint third, quit after spending an hour changing his clutch and gearbox.

Italian Mike Biasion, whose Lancia Delta led early today, also had a trying time. He spent 30 minutes fitting a new turbo system and, like teammate Preston, had a gearbox problem to wind up sixth behind Swede Per Eklund in a Nissan 200SX.

Leaders after 23 of 80 time controls:
1. Mike Kirkland (Kenya) Nissan 200SX 22 mins; 2. Kenneth Eriksson (Sweden) Toyota Supra 22; 3. Juhani Kangas (Finland) Toyota Supra 25; 4. Vic Preston Jr (Kenya) Lancia Delta 38; 5. Per Eklund (Sweden) Nissan 200SX 49; 6. Mike Biasion (Italy) Lancia Delta 52; 7. Ian Duncan (Kenya) Subaru 4WD Turbo 58; 8. Rudolf Stohl (Austria) Audi Quattro 1hr 34; 9. Bjorn Waldegard (Sweden) Toyota Supra 1:26; 10. Pesaume Bourne (New Zealand) Subaru 4WD Turbo 1:46.

Brett stuns younger brother

MONACO, April 1. (Reuters) Australian Brett Martin upset the seedings and beat his younger brother Rodney in a tough and occasionally tempestuous duel yesterday to reach the quarter-finals of the Monaco Open squash tournament.

Results
Jamsher Khan (Pakistan) beat Rodney

Eyles (Australia) 9-6 9-2 9-3; Ross Thorne (Australia) beat Ricki Hill (Australia) 9-5 6-9 3-9 0; Chris Dittmar (Australia) beat Jamie Hickox (Britain) 9-7 3-9 1-9; Chris Robertson (Australia) beat Bryan Besson (Britain) 9-0 9-2 9-1; Umar Hyatt Khan (Pakistan) beat Stuart Hailstone (Britain) 9-1 9-7; Ross Norman (New Zealand) beat Zark Jahan Khan (Pakistan) 9-6 9-2 9-1; Brett Martin (Australia) beat Rodney Martin (Australia) 2-9 5-9 7-9 2-9 3; Jahangir Khan (Pakistan) beat Mir Zaman Gul (Pakistan) 9-2 9-3 9-2.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Road race

NUSADUA, Indonesia, April 1. (Reuters) Liz Lynch McColgan of Britain, fresh from a record-breaking run in California, thinks a most lucrative world record is within her reach in the Bali 10-km road race on Sunday. A world record in the point-to-point race would bring the winner of either the men's or women's division a half-million-dollar bonus, and a star-studded field has been lured to this lush Indonesian resort island for the Easter Sunday race.

World Cup

ROME, April 1. (Reuters) The site for an international broadcasting centre, the subject of a row which had threatened to jeopardise Italy's hosting of the 1990 World Cup soccer finals, won official backing today.

Koeman fined

AMSTERDAM, April 1. (Reuters) Dutch First Division champions PS Eindhoven fined forward Ronald Koeman 10,000 guilders (\$5,400) today for his public praise of a foul of Bordeaux's Jean Tigana in a European Cup quarterfinal last month.

English clubs

LONDON, April 1. (AP) Europe's governing body for soccer has postponed a decision on readmitting English clubs to European club tournaments, it was reported today.

Rugby tour

DUBLIN, April 1. (Reuters) Ireland said today it would discourage its rugby players and officials from touring South Africa following the lifting of an International Rugby Board (IRB) ban on individuals playing there.

Top places

BRANDS HATCH, England, April 1. (AP) Doug Polen led an American sweep of the top three places but Britain built a narrow lead in the team standings on the first day of the Eurolantic Motorcycle Challenge.

US boxing

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado, April 1. (AP) Sugar Ray Leonard, a 1976 Olympic gold medal winner, will serve as adviser to the US Olympic boxing staff at the 1988 Summer Games.

Terry Marsh

LONDON, April 1. (AP) Former world champion Terry Marsh accused Britain's Boxing Control panel of racism yesterday for denying him a full-time promoter's license. Officials denied the charge and said Marsh had been dealt with "frankly and fairly."

Golf tourney

GREENSBORO, North Carolina, April 1. (Reuters) American Jeff Sluman shot an eight-under-par 64 yesterday to take the first-round lead in the \$1 million Greater Greensboro Open golf tournament.

Indian Open

CALCUTTA, April 1. (Reuters) Lu Chien-Soon of Taiwan fired seven birdies today to keep the lead in the \$100,000 Indian Open golf championship at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club.